



16 February 2024

Principal Message

This Tuesday, Etonbury Juniors enjoyed their first Valentines disco, which was organised by the Sixth Form. Over 200 students enjoyed dancing and party games, having selected their favourite songs beforehand. They also enjoyed having their photo taken with friends with various props in the photo booth. It was lovely to see the older and younger students having fun together and demonstrated how special our school community is.

Whilst organising the disco, Sixth Formers worked in teams to ensure that health and safety policies were met, the event would be financially viable, the hall and equipment were set up in advance and the event was advertised to juniors. Through doing this, students learnt key employability skills and pushed themselves to take on new responsibilities, which they will be able to reflect on in their CVs and personal statements.

Thank you to all of the students who submitted their valentines' roses as part of the whole school art challenge this week. With all of the entrances, Miss Nicole made a beautiful display featuring all of the work produced by the students.



It was very difficult to pick winners, but we selected the following students who stood out for their creativity and effort. Congratulations to: Hannah - Armstrong, Evie - Earhart, Maya - Jupiter, Mollie - Saturn, Kacey - 7RG and Hezzy - 7BM.

The Secondary Science Team have been really busy incorporating as much practical work and investigations into lessons this half term. This week they have celebrated some amazing budding scientists who were nominated by their teachers for demonstrating amazing practical skills, fantastic effort and incredible attitude to learning in their science lessons this half term. [Click here](#) to view further details.



To ease the pressure on the road infrastructure around drop off and pick up time we ask that as many students walk, cycle or scooter to school as possible. If you have to collect your son/daughter at pick up time can you please use the parking provided. The D is a pick up and drop off point only, you must not wait for students in the D as there are double yellow lines in place. Staff may ask you to move on if you are waiting as you are not helping the flow of traffic.

We remain in communication with Central Bedford Council to improve the infrastructure and ease the flow of traffic at key times of the day. Thank you for your support with this.

Please can we also ask you to be mindful when parking at drop off and collection and not to park in the disabled bays without a disability permit.

I am delighted to share that one of our former Pupils Thea P, currently studying History at the University of Bristol and also a Play Action International Volunteer, is planning to visit Kenya this summer to enrich the education and lives of children with the charity - to find out more please visit her [JustGiving](#) page for further details.

Have a safe and relaxing half term break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26 February 2024.

Have a lovely half-term

Best wishes.

Mrs. J Young - Principal

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES



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 - [2024 / 2025](#)

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 wvyoung@bestacademies.org.uk

World Book Day

This year, to celebrate World Book Day, Etonbury will be running a 'Book Face' competition. This is open to **all staff and students across the school (KS2, 3, 4, 5 and staff)**. The idea behind this competition is to challenge people to pick up a book they may not normally consider and to view books in a different light. A range of entries will be displayed in school, and...there will be prizes! Please email entries to fnorman@bestacademies.org.uk



SEND - Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

If your child is on our SEND register you will have been sent their most recent IEP via email (please check your spam folders). The email also contains a link to a Google Form where we encourage you to leave your feedback. Thank you as always for all of your engagement with students' IEPs, our staff find your comments most helpful in ensuring we implement the best possible support. The feedback form will close on the **8th March**.

Interventions

We are starting our second cycle of interventions on **Monday 11th March**. If your child is involved, you will have been sent an electronic letter this week. Students have been told by their form tutors if they are in interventions, which days and where to go. Thank you as always for all of your support with interventions. We are confident our interventions serve the students well and upon reviewing the data from last year, it showed that students who attended their interventions regularly made hugely accelerated progress!

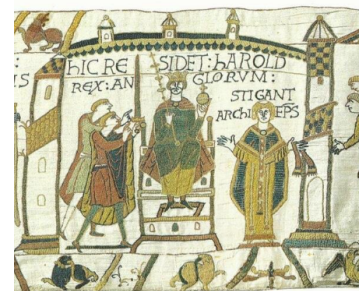
ETA HISTORY DEPARTMENT



This week our bulletin focus is on our History Department.

My name is Ms Young and I have been Head of History at Etonbury for 6 years. In that time, I have overseen a revamp to the Key Stage three curriculum as well as the introduction of GCSE and A level history. We are very proud of the GCSE results that our students have achieved over the last few years. I have also introduced a number of experiences for our students, such as our First World War artefacts sessions and residential trip to Belgium and France to help students with their understanding of medicine on the Western Front. We also have four year 12 students who will be visiting Auschwitz soon as well as an A level trip to New York and Washington.

I, myself have been a teacher for over 25 years and before my time at Etonbury, I worked in Luton. I love my subject and I am always reading history books; my students are often aware when I have read something new or listened to a cool podcast as I feel the need to tell them! I am more of a social historian and have a wide range of “favourite” parts of history, in particular the Tudors (although I hate Henry VIII!) and 20th century history. I am really enjoying teaching the



American 20th century as part of the A level course and looking forward to the witchcraft unit in year 13. There was a promise of a witch's hat from my Year 12's!

I am very proud of our amazing history team. We have a number of multi-tasking historians, such as Mrs Allen and Mrs Thompson, whose favourite part of history is also the Tudors. Mrs Gant has been teaching history for the past two years and is

quickly becoming an expert on the East India Company as part of the British Empire unit. Mrs Wood

has joined us this year and she is a Nazi Germany and Holocaust expert, so is an amazing resource for A level history coursework. Mrs Clarke arrived at Etonbury the same time as I did, we actually were at the same school together before here. She is our family history expert and we can always trust her to do some detective work for us.

If you have any questions about history at Etonbury, please feel free to email me on wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk

PE DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to our Sports Legends this week. Please see this weekend's X (twitter) and Facebook posts for details celebrating these achievements. We would also like to congratulate Jayden B in year 7 for his recent silver medal for diving. We would also like to congratulate Oliver from ETA Juniors on his performance at a recent football tournament where he played a tournament against professional football clubs.



Archie, pictured left was selected to represent Chelsea Football Club Foundation at Chelsea FC Cobham training ground.



Our ETA Junior netball team wrapped up their season with a remarkable 20-0 victory in their final game, showcasing impressive progress. Way to go, girls!

Congratulations to the year 11 football team for their hard-earned win against Lealands High School in a closely contested match this week. It was a great display of sportsmanship and competitiveness.

Despite not emerging victorious, the Y9 and Y10 teams exhibited exceptional handball skills tonight, striving for a 3rd place finish. Special recognition goes to our Captain, Sam, and our top performer, Fin.

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

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





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

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](#)

Equipment

We are now half way through the academic year and are noticing that some pupils are coming to school without the correct equipment, whiteboards pens are beginning to run out or they have misplaced/lost items. Please can you ensure that your child's pencil case is restocked over the half term holiday and they have all the correct equipment for learning when they return. [Click here](#) to view the list.



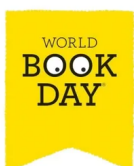
'Orange Book Club' !

In Juniors we run our '**Orange Book Club**' - The children are asked to read, at least, 3 times a week to an adult. Their Orange Books are checked weekly in school and if they have completed this they receive an Orange Stamp. When they receive 6 Orange Stamps they can attend the 'Orange Book Club' which will be held on a Thursday after half term, and they can claim a reward book to acknowledge their effort and achievement. They also get recognised and applauded in our assemblies.

So far, since September 2023, we have issued over 250 books. Some of the children have been super stars and have claimed 3 books from the club already.

Well done to all of the children that have received a book and we look forward to issuing many more before the end of the school year.

If over half term, or at anytime, you find yourselves clearing out any books suitable for us to recycle and use to present to the children, then please drop them into school for the attention of Juniors and the Orange Book Club. Thank you.



World Book Day 2024

Etonbury Juniors will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March. The theme this year is 'I am a reader'. Staff and teachers alike will be dressing up as a character from their favourite book. There will be WBD themed ideas throughout

the day, and the children will each receive their WBD voucher. We look forward to seeing the children dressed up as their favourite character.

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 for 2024.

YEAR 9

Mrs K Hume – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Options

Please [click here](#) to view the Year 9 KS4 Prospectus. This document provides information of all the Key Stage 4 courses on offer. This will help you discuss options with your child over the half term, prior to the Options evening on Thursday the 29th of February (6–8pm).

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

YEAR 10

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.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 if you have any questions

YEAR 11

Mr D Sutcliffe - Head of Year 11.

The Year 11 Prom has now been provisionally booked for 28th 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 weeks as we finalise the booking and start to sell tickets via ParentMail.

If you have any further questions please do email me at: dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk



Leavers Hoodies

This is to see who would like to order a leavers hoodie. This isn't an expression of interest form and will be used by me to generate a list of students for whom the hoodies will be ordered. Please complete the form below. Any questions please email dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk **Deadline is 1st March.**



Leavers Hoodie Google Form

Yearbook

This is an expression of interest form regarding a year 11 yearbook. This is something that is student-led and the main purpose of this is to see if there is enough interest in a yearbook. I have left a note in the form but it would be great if all parents filled out this form regardless of if they are interested in a year book as there is a question regarding if they consent for their child's photo to be used in the year book. **The deadline for completing the forms is the 1st of March.**

Year 11 Yearbook Google Form

Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts Exam

On Wednesday 13th March there will be an after school dress and technical rehearsal till 5.30pm. On 22nd March there will be a drop down day exam for Performing Arts BTEC students and they must wear all black and will be off timetable all day.

Exams

After half term the following exams will be taking place for Year 11:

Monday 4th - Friday 8th March - Year 11 Core Mocks

Exams are run in accordance with JCQ regulations. It is important that students are familiar with these guidelines.

Please see the below links:

[JCQ Information for candidates Non-examination Assessment](#)

[JCQ Information for candidates Written Examinations](#)

[JCQ Information for candidates On-screen Tests](#)

[Click here to view the AI Student Guide](#)

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)

Foundation tier (Grades 4 & 5)

Mr Scott

Mrs Sarup

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

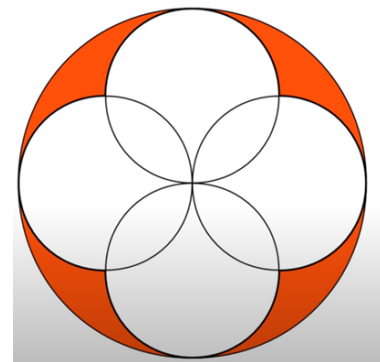
Higher Revisions Schedule - [click here](#)

Foundation Revision Schedule - [click here](#)

Weekly Maths Challenge from Mr Vanner

Did you find the length of the spiral last week? Here is the solution - [maths solution](#)

This weeks challenge is to find the area of the shaded portion? The diameter of the large circle is 84.



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.



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

Exams

After half term the following exams will be taking place for Sixth Form students:

Wednesday 13th March

The London Institute of Banking and Finance E-Test Re-sit (Year 12)

Monday 18th March

Unit 1 Criminology Controlled Assessment (Year 12)

Tuesday 19th March

The London Institute of Banking and Finance written paper Re-sit (Year 12)

Thursday 21st March

Unit 1 Criminology Controlled Assessment (Year 12)



JCQ AI and Assessments
A quick guide for students

What is AI?

- AI stands for artificial intelligence and using it is like having a computer that thinks
- AI tools like ChatGPT or Snapchat My AI can write text, make art and create music by learning from data from the internet, but watch out – they can also make things up and be biased

How can AI be misused in assessments?

AI misuse is when you take something made using AI and say it's your own work.

THIS IS CHEATING!

How do I make sure I don't misuse AI?

- Know the rules**
 - You're **not** allowed to use AI tools when you're in an exam
 - Your teachers will tell you if you're allowed to use AI tools when doing your coursework – the rules will depend on your qualification
 - Even if you're allowed to use AI tools, you can't get marks for content just produced by AI – your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work
- Reference reference reference!**
 - If you're allowed to use AI tools, you must reference them clearly
 - Name the AI tool you used
 - Add the date you generated the content
 - Explain how you used it
 - Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got
- Declare it's all your own work**
 - When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references

What happens if I misuse AI?

If you've misused AI, you could lose your marks for the assessment – you could even be disqualified from the subject.

DON'T RISK IT!

REMEMBER
Misusing AI is cheating!
Know the rules
Talk to your teachers
Reference clearly

Exams are run in accordance with JCQ regulations. It is important that students are familiar with these guidelines.

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UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair – Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

We are proposing to take the whole Year 12 cohort to the above event on Friday 1st March 2024. Please [click here](#) to read the letter and full details.

Year 12 WEX

All students in Year 12 are going to be on work experience from **Monday 1st – Friday 5th July 2024**. In this period there will be no classes – each day all students will be at the workplace of their host employer.

Work experience gives students the chance to learn about what type of job they might enjoy, and develop their CV. We know it can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education.

Students (and their families) should source their own work experience placements. We are using Unifrog (www.unifrog.org) to manage the administration of the work experience programme – for example collecting information from the employer about their Risk Assessment and Health & Safety policy, as well as getting agreement from yourselves for the placement to go ahead. [Click here](#) for more information.

CLUB INFORMATION



- **LAMDA Dates** – February: 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](#).
- **Homework Club** runs every Monday and Tuesday after school with Miss Nicole.
- **School of Rock** – Please note that there will still be rehearsals till 5pm for School of Rock on Thursday 29th Feb. This will take place in drama studio due to year 9 options evening taking place in hall and setting up.

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.
- Balanced Minds – [Football](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Fri 16 Feb	Break for Half Term
Mon 26 Feb	Students & Staff Return to School
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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