



ETONBURY
ACADEMY



Sixth Form

What makes us special?

SPECIALIST STAFF

All our teachers have a specialism in the subjects they teach at KS5. Most subjects have 2 teachers so students have lots of support. Many of our teachers are examiners in their subjects, so are experts in how students will be assessed. Teachers also have links with people who have careers in their field in the real world, so can help students with careers advice and work experience contacts.



RELATIONSHIPS ESTABLISHED

Students are always telling us that the reason they stayed on into Sixth Form is because they have excellent relationships with their teachers. Teachers already know their strengths and weaknesses, so can really hit the ground running at KS5, where there is very little time to cover lots of content. Every transition to a new setting has been proven to set students back several months, so staying with us would mean no time is wasted.



BRAND NEW FACILITIES

The Sixth Form centre was a £1,000,000 refurbishment project and bespoke designed for our students, reflecting the wishes that came from student voice working parties. The café and garden were requested by the students and are unique to this setting- very few Sixth Forms have this provision. We have recently added table tennis tables to the garden, thanks to the PE department, which are proving very popular.



Develop the learner, develop the person

Contact: Mrs C Dowden - Head of Sixth Form
cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk

www.etonburyacademy.org.uk

SMALLER CLASS SIZES

As we are a growing Sixth Form, our students benefit from much smaller classes than in other schools in the region. This means students get much closer support in lessons, teachers really get to know their students and feedback is more personalised. Teachers work with the pastoral team quickly, so that if students are having difficulty, they can be supported in a number of different ways.



SPECIALIST RESOURCES

As we have recently opened, lots of our resources are brand new and state of the art. The science department has had £40,000 of new equipment so they can deliver the A Level specifications. Art and product design have specialist workrooms for Sixth Formers so they can use the resources during their independent study lessons. In addition, our modern facilities are designed to support a focused and inspiring learning environment across all subjects.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

'Develop the learner, develop the person' is our motto and nowhere embraces this more than the Sixth Form. From the minute students start in Year 12, we provide students with opportunities for them to develop their transferable skills, which are so important when they start applying for post 18 programmes. Rather than simply saying they have good communication or leadership skills, we give students the opportunity to actually work on these in projects, giving them concrete examples to discuss in interviews or in applications. .



Sixth Formers support younger students through GCSE tuition, handwriting and numeracy clubs, reading support, and in-class help. They can also train as peer mentors, offering 1:1 sessions to those needing extra care - ideal for those pursuing careers in caring professions. Many take the Extended Project Qualification, worth up to 32 UCAS points (half an A Level), gaining transferable skills that prepare them well for the future. Students also help run fundraising events like the staff vs. students football match, hot chocolate sales, and the annual Junior School Valentines Disco.

Everyone is respectful

MIXED TUTOR GROUPS

We don't keep separate Yr12 and 13 tutor groups- we believe it is valuable for Yr13s to be able to offer Yr12s advice from being further ahead in their studies, post 18 applications etc. It also helps to build new friendships across the Sixth Form. However, we do separate the two year groups for PSHE and careers sessions, where students need different information at different points in their studies



ETA
SIXTH
FORM

BULLETIN

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We know how important it is to communicate with parents quickly and this is perhaps even more important in Sixth Form, when students lead increasingly independent lives and may not spend as much time with their parents. We send a Sixth Form bulletin home every week to both students and parents, so everyone knows what is happening each week.

We also contact home promptly when there are attendance issues and if there are any pastoral concerns. We have face to face meetings with parents when needed and have chaired video meetings when several subject areas have raised concerns. We have a student concerns tracking log so the Sixth Form team can quickly see if there are any academic issues, deal with these and ensure contact has been made with parents. This tracking system has been shared as best practice with other Heads of Sixth who are planning to adopt a similar model.

PE LESSONS

We know the benefits of physical activity to support our students' mental wellbeing and so we wanted to continue to provide timetabled non-compulsory PE lessons to our Sixth Formers. The ETA PE department is great at getting students involved and lessons have proved to be very popular.



GYM FACILITIES

The Pendleton gym offers reduced membership rates for students and we are happy for our students to access this fantastic facility during the school day. We actively encourage students to make use of the gym as part of a healthy lifestyle, supporting both their physical wellbeing and mental health throughout their time in sixth form



Together we care



CHROMEBOOKS

We give all our students a Chromebook when they begin- a benefit not many Sixth Forms offer. The reason behind this is simple- we want students to be able to maximise their learning time and not waste it queuing up for a computer to become available. Students can save their work digitally so they won't need to carry lots of folders and teachers can use Google Classroom to set work and share electronic resources.

SUPPORT WITH POST 18 OPTIONS

Students have weekly career sessions and access to Unifrog so they can explore what they would like to do after leaving Sixth Form. All students also get the opportunity for an appointment with our careers advisor as well as a trip to the UCAS convention in London. We also work with local universities so students can benefit from talks and taster day visits. We are part of the Bedfordshire Raising Aspirations group, so we have extra support in place for students applying to Oxbridge or Medicine. We have also had talks by a degree apprenticeship specialist to support students aiming for an alternative to university.



TRIPS & VISITS

Our teachers offer a huge range of exciting trips to KS5 students, giving them memorable experiences and a first look at careers that might be possible in their field of study. This year we have had an amazing trip to New York and Washington DC, as well as a ski trip to Italy. The criminology department organised a trip to the Houses of Parliament and to the mock bar competition, where students had first hand experience presenting a trial. Students have been to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Foundation and the debate club won the regional prize in the House of Commons.

The science department organised trips to GlaxoSmithKline and the observatory in Bedford. All Year 12s go to the UCAS convention so they can talk to university and apprenticeship providers. Business and sociology have taken groups to London for a revision conference and our artists have been to various exhibitions

Always aim higher

PUPIL FIRST APPROACH

All our decisions centre around what is best for our students. We have consulted students about the courses we offer, the dress code and the facilities. We continue to use termly progress checks to gauge what is going well and what could be improved. Senior students represent student voice through the student principals, diversity and equality officer, fundraising committee etc



DRESS CODE

We have implemented a smart casual dress code, as requested by the students. Our goal is to ensure students feel at ease and are able to express their individuality. Additionally, we aim to alleviate the financial burden on parents by reducing the need for business attire.



EASY COMMUTER LINKS

We are easy to get to via train, bus and road. We also run a bus to Henlow to enable students to easily get to us. If you're not sure about transport options, please don't hesitate to ask - we're happy to help.



COMMUNITY FEEL

Above all, we are not a huge, sprawling Sixth Form where students are just a name on a page. We are able to build good relationships with all our students and we keep on top of how they are performing both academically and pastorally. We see our Sixth Formers as role models for the younger students, helping them with their work and around the school. We encourage our students to give back to the community through fundraising activities and supporting staff in lessons, clubs etc

QUESTIONS.....

Here at Etonbury Sixth Form we operate an open door policy, we are always happy to meet and discuss any questions you may have, help our students make informed course decisions and help with the application process. In the first instance please email Mrs Dowden - cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk

*The **ETA** way!*



ETONBURY
ACADEMY

Sixth Form



SCAN ME

**VISIT OUR WEB PAGE FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON OPEN DAYS,
APPLICATIONS AND PERSONAL
TOURS**

Subject

Subject
Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Criminology
English Literature
Forensic Science
Geography
Health & Social Care
History
Maths
Media
Performing Arts
Photography
Psychology
Physics
Product Design
Sociology
Sport
Travel & Tourism
EPQ
Further Maths
Enrichment opportunities

To view the Sixth Form subject options





Sixth Form

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