

# NEWSLETTER

July 2021



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Dear all,

Despite the challenges that have arisen this year, the students and staff have still managed to make it a happy and successful year. Following this message, are a number of events that have taken place already this year, and I know that there are a number still to take place as I write this. I was particularly proud of the recent careers talks arranged by Mrs Dorgan and Helen Lewis, one of our Local Board. It was a chance for year 10 students to hear from real life employers, employees, self-employed and business owners who work across a vast array of business sectors. Sports events for students are concluding and it has been great to see so many students get involved and enjoy taking part in a wide variety of sports activities, participation being the key word.

We look forward to our first Pride event later this week, where we are looking to support and raise awareness of our LGBT community and promote greater understanding of this in the

future. Even as we get ready for the summer, it seems there is still so much to cram in!

I hope you enjoy reading about these events and look forward to next year when, all being well, we will be able to see a return to a greater number where students can participate across year groups, rather than just in their bubbles.

Anthony Snape  
Interim Principal

## INSET Days

Thurs 2/9/21

Fri 3/9/21

Fri 22/10/21

Fri 26/11/21

Mon 25/04/22

Fri 1/07/22

Mon 4/07/22

## Term Dates 2021/22

Term 1 Thurs 2/9/21 - Fri 22/10/21

Term 2 Mon 1/11/20 - Fri 17/12/21

Term 3 Mon 4/1/22 - Fri 18/2/22

Term 4 Mon 28/2/22 - Fri 8/4/22

Term 5 Mon 25/4/22 - Fri 27/5/22

Term 6 Mon 6/6/22 - Fri 22/7/22

## Performing Arts Department at TBHA

We've filmed a concert! I am so excited to let you know that the final mixing of our Summer Concert is currently underway. As soon as the video is ready I will write again with viewing instructions. Massive thanks to Lance Milton for giving up his time and equipment to allow this event to happen.

Despite the setbacks of the pandemic the Performing Arts Department continues to flourish at TBHA. We came back with a bang and a full extra-curricular programme, including some new clubs; Steel Pan Band, Music Tech Club & Drama Club. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children in the various choirs, bands and groups.

The number of students learning a musical instrument has risen again this year. With funding from The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust we were able to purchase a new set of brass instruments. With so many players we have been able to start a Brass Ensemble, run by Nathaniel Roff. You will hear them performing the theme from "Wallace and Gromit" in our summer concert. What they have achieved in such a short amount of time is truly impressive. Next year we are hoping to run a series of fundraising events in order to replace a very old and well-used Danemann piano. Information will be circulated in the autumn term.

I would like to say congratulations and well done to our students who have taken instrumental exams this year. Some students have even taken the new-style video exams being offered by ABRSM and Rockschool.

Please make sure you let your teacher know if you have taken Music or LAMDA exams outside of school too!

Don't forget that there are plenty of opportunities for our students to get involved in Music and Drama at TBHA. Next academic year there will be brand new extra-curricular groups running at lunchtime, plus there is always the chance to learn an instrument here. Learning an instrument has been scientifically proven to improve cognitive skills and boost school grades!

Just speak to or email Mrs Freaan for further information.



## Lions Club Award

It was wonderful to welcome the Burgess Hill Lions president, Ken Saunders and secretary, Tony Parris to join Acting Principal, Anthony Snape to present the Gold Seal, Young Leaders Award to Year 11 students, Lily-Mae and Lydia for completing over 50 hours of voluntary service in the community.

Both students completed this amazing feat in conjunction with studying for their GCSE exams. A monumental accomplishment. We are very proud of both students



## Thanks

We were very grateful earlier this term to The HUB team from St Andrew's Church who served academy staff with coffee and pastries. It was much appreciated. |

Our thanks to The Hub Team.



## Reminders

Could we please remind parents that it is their responsibility to check that medicines for their child which are carried by the student or held by the Medical Room are in date, eg asthma inhalers, auto injectors etc.

If further clarification is needed, please contact the Medical Room staff, Tel 01444 241691 or via email [firstaid@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:firstaid@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

## Email addresses for academy staff

Please be aware that you can find email addresses for academy staff on our website <https://www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/our-school/meet-our-team>

## Studybugs

A reminder to parents about a more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

## Food Allergies

All food is prepared in our kitchen where allergens may be present. We do not use nuts.

Please contact us if you are concerned about allergies, and encourage your students to ask the Kitchen team about the ingredients in our dishes.

## Lost Property

Items of lost property are held in our Reception area. Please ask your child to check there if they have lost something.

Due to lack of space, items not collected at the end of the academic year are donated to charity or destroyed.

## Bee Swarm

Earlier this term, we were visited by a large swarm of bees which were discovered on a fence between the academy and Woodlands Mead School.

Fortunately the British Beekeeper's Association came to our aid and all of the bees were rehoused.

The bees have replaced the original queen with a new queen, to do this they take an egg, place it in a wax cell and feed it royal jelly. The old queen is then killed and removed by the mortician bees and the new queen continues to grow and produce eggs for more bees.



The Bees in their new home., a 6 frame nuc(leus) box. Once the queen is laying and they're settled they then go into a proper wooden hive.



What do mortician bees do?

The Mortuary Bee removes any dead bee corpses and larvae that did not grow into bees from the hive. Sometimes there is an emergency where hundreds of bees will die due to foraging on pesticide-laden flowers. In such a situation it can take many Mortuary Bees to get the job done.

## It is Honeybee Swarm Season



If you see a swarm of bees then please don't panic - they're fairly harmless unless disturbed so keep children and pets away. A swarm is how the bees reproduce - no other insect swarms so they are not wasps or hornets.

A local beekeeper would love to come and collect them (usually free, they might charge expenses) and put them in a hive.

To find a local beekeeper, look on [www.bbka.org.uk/swarm](http://www.bbka.org.uk/swarm) for details of what honey bees look like and, if you put in your address, your nearest registered collector. For further advice call 07809 450666 in Sussex.

## Year 8 – Looking at Employment

During lockdown , I began thinking of ways employers could virtually support careers in the curriculum and I advertised through the BHBPA newsletter asking for a local company to create a video based around the number of jobs roles involved in creating their product.

MyPTHub responded immediately and shortly afterwards I met with Phil Carr, CEO to discuss what I was looking for. Phil was amazing and understood immediately the project that I was trying to create for Year 8 to develop their understanding of the working world. Ben and Hannah from MyPTHub were then tasked with creating the video and I have been overwhelmed by the content of the video they produced. It far exceeded my expectations and will be useful not only for the project I am working on for Year 8, but also to support subjects in explaining the roles within business.

The lesson and accompanying video encouraged students to think about businesses within our local area and the types of job roles available within those businesses. This then prompted conversations about the effect that the pandemic has had on businesses – whether they have increased their turnover or their business has lost income and they have had to diversify. A great opportunity to discuss local labour market information!

The Academy are grateful for any support that local businesses are able to offer and if there are any parents who would like to support careers in the curriculum but unsure how, please contact me at [L.Dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:L.Dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

Mrs Dorgan

## Thank you

A big thank you to the volunteers from **Caring for Carers: supporting NHS, schools, carers & charities in Sussex** who made and delivered disposable face masks for the academy.

## Tegs

Welcome to our new member of staff Tegs.

Tegs is 2 years old and is training towards becoming an assistance dog. She will hopefully become fully qualified before the end of the current academic year as she builds on the intensive training she has already received.

Tegs is currently settling into school-life and all the different smells and noises this brings. She can currently be found in Mr Ferrier's office during the day, with the hope that she will soon be put to good work supporting students taking on an important role as she will, amongst other roles, work with children who have special needs, suffer bereavement or who are upset in any way and in need of calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them. This will all take place under strict supervision at certain times of the day.

Tegs will be in school on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



## Dare to Dream

The Academy have been very fortunate to be sponsored by American Express to participate in the LoveLocalJobs Foundation "Dare to Dream" programme. As part of this programme, Jack "The Lad" Hayes from More Radio has given three inspirational assemblies to the whole of our Year 9 during the course of two months. Jack talked about his childhood and experiences of bullying. He discussed personality and confidence with our Year 9 students and encouraged them to step out of their comfort zone and most importantly, be themselves. American Express employees have supported this programme by mentoring 12 students and working with them to identify skills that they have and skills that they need to improve on.

We are incredibly grateful to American Express for sponsoring this programme and to Jack "The Lad" for inspiring our students with his fantastic life story.



"Dare to Dream" was a series of assemblies hosted by "Jack the Lad". It has taught me new skills which I will need in the future to get a job that I love and enjoy. Two things that I have learned from the experience are: Self-confidence is a big thing when it comes to applying for your dream job. It can take a lot of perseverance and confidence for you to take a big leap into the unknown. The second thing is getting out of your comfort zone - it can be quite difficult to do this but when you do you will begin to believe in yourself more. However sometimes we make mistakes. But that is fine because this is one way of learning! I have also enjoyed hearing from "Jack The Lad" about how he has made his way from the bottom to the top of employment. I will take lots of ideas from this workshop for the future.

Isobel, year 9

## Marine Engineering Buoyancy Workshop

On Wednesday 16th June, a selection of Year 8 students took part in a Marine Engineering Workshop which was run by a representative from the UK Sea Cadets. It was organized to give an idea of what a future career in marine engineering could be like.

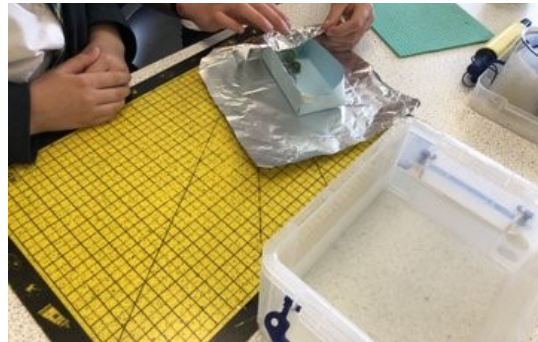
The workshop was about different aspects of becoming a marine engineer, and included some practical activities based around finding mass and density of

objects within water.

We started by dropping a single block of plasticine into a tub of water, then recording its results (it sank). Next, we rolled the plasticine flat and turned it into a hollow boat shape, then placed it back onto the water to test the new results (it floated).

At the end of the workshop, we made our own boats out of card and tin foil, then taped it all together. Then, we tested our boats on the water, and placed marbles that represented cargo containers into the makeshift boats to see how much mass the boat could carry before it sank below the surface. We estimated how many marbles would float before the experiment, and were surprised when most of the boats were able to hold more than fifty marbles each!

Overall, it was a very interesting and enjoyable experience, which gave a great insight into a career in marine engineering. With internship salaries starting from £30,000 a year, and high earning potential in the marine industry overall, it certainly gave us a new career option to consider in the future.



## Year 10 Careers Week

The penultimate week of term has provided Year 10 students with a series of virtual Career Insight Talks from 31 employers across 24 industries. Employers such as Edwards Vacuum, American Express, Gatwick Airport Engineering, Varian Medical Systems, The Grand Hotel, BHESCO and Cern have given students an insight into working within their industry and their varied career paths. We have also had the pleasure of 7 alumni giving up their time to inspire our Year 10 students with careers in Law, Politics, Business Management, Media, IT, Finance and Science. We were also extremely grateful to welcome comedian, Stephen Grant into the Academy to hold a talk on working in the theatre and comedy.

All the presenters gave informative presentations on their industries and students had the opportunity to ask questions at the end. A huge thank you to all the employers who have given up time to take part this week - there are too many to name! We are also grateful to our Local Board Member, Helen Lewis who has also been busy prerecording a number of fantastic Career Insight talks with some amazing people in a variety of industries.

## Alumni

I left Oakmeeds in 2012 and went on to BHASVIC to study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Theatre Studies. After that, I went on to study Medicine at the University of Southampton, undertaking their 6 year widening access program. Studying medicine was an amazing experience, and I even got to visit Malawi to undertake some volunteer work before graduating!

In 2020, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, I graduated as a doctor. It has been a difficult time for everyone, and I have been truly humbled by my experiences whilst working during the pandemic. We still found a way to celebrate it with a mini ceremony in the back garden!

I now work in a hospital in Devon, and really enjoy my job, as well as the beautiful countryside. I would encourage anyone interested in medicine to pursue it as a career - it has been hard work, but incredibly rewarding.

My fondest memories of Oakmeeds were the productions put on by Mrs Freaan and Mr Wood - in particular We Will Rock You! I use the interpersonal skills learnt through performing arts every day in my role as a doctor, and am extremely grateful for the confidence those experiences gave me.

December Payne



We always enjoy hearing from former students and will publish news of their achievements in our regular e-newsletter.

Please send your stories to [office@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk) for inclusion. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please join our community by linking us to your education status on [LinkedIn](#).

Further information about our alumni can be found on our website <https://www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/our-school/alumni>

## Gatwick Airport Engineering outreach programme

As part of the Gatwick Airport Engineering outreach programme, our Year 9 students were set the challenge of building a bridge following the strict guidance set by the project. Gatwick Airport Engineering held a Teams call with the whole of Year 9 to explain the project and discuss the types of Engineering roles available within the airport. Students were then tasked with creating their bridges either individually or in teams. Dave and Louisa from Gatwick Airport Engineering then reviewed the prototypes and held a further Teams call with Year 9 to give feedback. This was a fantastic project and one which Year 9 students entered with enthusiasm. The finished projects were beyond expectations.

Mrs Dorgan

Around 1 month ago, students in Year 9 were tasked with completing an information sheet about bridges and then to actually build one ourselves by Gatwick Airport who video called every Year 9 class that day.

Gatwick Airport gave us some restrictions as not to make the process easy, some of which included: "Only use items you have at home eg ice cream sticks or there must be 2.5cm over the table/chairs to support your bridge per end.

I happened to have some bamboo sticks lying around for multi-use purposes so I decided to use those. I got my dad to help me as I planned to use saws and glue guns to get the pieces exactly right and then glue them together. This ended up taking a lot longer than I anticipated and challenged my endurance.

Finally, after around a week and a half after the deadline, we received another call from Gatwick Airport and they congratulated everyone, especially those who brought their bridge in to show them. They said there was three criteria for success

- . How sturdy it was
- . How aesthetically pleasing it was
- . Overall performance

They started by showing my bridge, and said "The strongest bridge made due to the choice of Bamboo" and then proceeded to show many other bridges made by fellow classmates

Overall the entire experience was really fun and I would gladly take part again.

Samuel, year 9



## Design Ventura 2020 competition

The entry from academy students was shortlisted in the Design Ventura 2020 competition held earlier this year.

"Thank you to all the teachers and students who have worked so hard on this year's project. The Covid-19 pandemic has made this a very challenging year, especially for teachers, students and schools. Despite these challenges, we have been incredibly impressed by the creativity and effort students have put into this year's competition. This year we have a shortlist of **seven** state schools in the main competition to allow for social distancing at this year's Celebration Event in June. We had over 15,000 students participating this year, so our panel of shortlisting judges did not have an easy task. After much debate, the final top **seven** state school entries and top **three** schools in the International and Independent Category were selected."

In June the students attended a celebration event at the Design Museum. Our students received a certificate for Outstanding Finalist. Their work is now on display at the Design Museum.

The photo shows our entry:



## The Burgess Hill Academy, West Sussex Play Cube

A wooden play cube that contains toy cars and transforms into a road map play scene for young children.





# INKPOTS ON LINE

- \*Weekly term-time online after-school creative writing sessions.
- \*New year 7 group starts in September.
- \*Small groups.
- \*Regular author/artist visits.
- \*Experienced writing coach.
- \*£7.75 per session.

1:1 sessions also available.

Please email [gill@inkpots.org](mailto:gill@inkpots.org) for more details.



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