



THE BURGESS HILL ACADEMY

Our Ref ASE/MKR/year 11

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Principal: Jon Francies

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to recap the Parent Forum which took place last Thursday evening. Thank you to all those who could attend and my apologies to those for whom the set up was too short notice.

It has been a great start to the year for Year 11 and it has been fantastic to see them all return with such a positive attitude. Let us hope that this year brings less disruption for them and that they get a steady preparation time for their exams later in the academic year. Whilst on this topic, we are still awaiting final decisions from DFE regarding any changes to course content and examinations. Once this is finalised, we will, of course circulate this to you and the students. We have two mock exam seasons prior to the final exams, which will take place this November and next March. The first covers exams for pretty much all subjects, whilst the March one will be for core subjects and those subjects who have supplementary papers which have not yet been examined. This is all aimed at giving students as much practice as possible ahead of the real thing.

As many of you will be aware, we have been suffering some technical difficulties this term on the back of a programme of upgrades from the summer. I would like to apologise to all who use the canteen system for the issues around Parent Pay set up and this lack of information coming from our purchasing system. All being well, as you receive this, these issues should have been rectified. We will see a further upgrade to our till system at half term which should make the process even better for the students when they use the canteen.

Many of you will have heard in the news about the upcoming Covid vaccine programme for all 12-15 year olds. This will happen here at school, though I would like to remind parents that this is not co-ordinated by us, rather it is run and dealt with by the NHS and West Sussex Immunisation Team. We will help them circulate information, but please read this carefully and should you have any worries, concerns or issues, contact the NHS as explained in the information. Please do not contact us at the school regarding issues around vaccination or consent for the vaccination.

Thursday 7th October sees our annual Post-16 evening for Year 11 students. This is a chance to meet and ask questions of over 20 providers and pick up printed information. We will also be talking you through the key details, dates and information around this process. Mrs Dorgan will be organising careers interviews for students using our independent careers advisor. She will also offer her own support to students on the back of this regarding advice and guidance on post-16 opportunities and the application process. She can be reached on l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk or via reception. In a change to the usual format, we will be running the evening in two sessions in order that we can better manage numbers and crowds in the current climate. Details are coming out soon about this.

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So many of you have emailed me regarding the wonderful job that Mrs Ridley did supporting your sons and daughters here at the academy. In light of her moving on, Ms Howell will be working with Year 11. She is a vastly experienced teacher and Head of Year and I know that she will do a fantastic job supporting and working with the students and yourselves.

On the evening, Andrew Wright was able to give a talk about the support he can offer in helping students cope with demands of this year. If you have not yet looked at or read any of the material we have on the website regarding his work, then I urge you to please check it out. His key message on the evening was for students to get into good study habits and processes as soon as possible. For example, at the end of every day, they should go back over their lessons and recap what it was they learned and covered. He also gave another tip of students becoming revision card fanatics, having three boxes of them on the go at all times: those where the information hasn't yet sunk in fully and so they need to be looked at regularly; those where the recall isn't totally secure but getting there and so looking at these less often; those where the knowledge is secure and so these can be looked at periodically. There are many more tips and strategies available through Andrew's work with us and should your son/daughter need something more, please get in contact with us via Ms Howell and we can look to personalise this.

In closing, can I reiterate the key message: contact us early if you need anything; don't let it build into something bigger. We always value your support and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for all that you will do in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Snape
Acting Principal