



The Burgess Hill Academy

# Community Newsletter

Term 6 : June – July 2024

# Message from The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of the students and staff at The Burgess Hill Academy throughout the year. As we look back at this term, we have seen our children grow, develop and most importantly celebrate their enormous range of skills, talents and achievements.

Firstly, our Year 11 students enjoyed a wonderful Leavers' Assembly with form tutors sharing their most memorable moments of the last 5 years with their form groups. This was accompanied by a truly spectacular Prom where our students looked resplendent in their prom outfits and a number made some very spectacular entrances! The students enjoyed a very special evening with a lot of spirited dancing. Our thanks go to all the staff involved for organising such a successful event.

This term we introduced a Celebration Awards Evening. This was another tremendous evening with students from all year groups receiving awards for their academic effort and community achievement. Students knew they had been nominated, but only found out which award on the evening they had received when winners were announced; this created a lovely atmosphere of anticipation and celebration. Thank you to all parents who provided such positive feedback and further thanks to Mrs. Larcombe, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Frean, and Mr. Pownceby for the hard work and commitment in creating such a wonderful evening for our children.

Wednesday 17th July saw our annual sports day where we saw all our children participating in traditional athletics events such as 100m sprint, shot put and classic relays alongside a whole range of team and individual games including volleyball and tennis. The day was an overwhelming success; our students behaved beautifully and the level of achievement was extremely high. Congratulations go to all our competitors and a huge thanks to Mr. Vincent and the PE department for going the extra mile to ensure that we could make this happen given the inclement weather earlier in the week.

As we enter the summer break, it is time to say goodbye to a number of staff who are leaving at the end of term. We thank them for all they have given to the school and wish them well in their future roles:

Melanie Kerr	Data Manager
Isobel English	Teacher of Science
Ross Hamilton	Teacher of Geography
Harry Key	Teacher of English
Jennifer Macdonald	Teacher of English
Melanie Reyes	Teacher of MFL
Emily Salter	Subject Leader Geography
Anthony Snape	Vice Principal
Hannah Whitbourn	Learning Support Assistant

I would like to inform parents and carers that an extensive re-decoration programme will take place over the summer holidays including the painting of the corridors and stairwells in three of the teaching blocks. I am also delighted to announce that an outdoor gym is to be installed and would like to formally thank the Burgess Hill Lions for their very generous donation.

It leaves me to wish you all a relaxing and refreshing summer break. We look forward to seeing you in September.

**Karen Clinton**  
**Principal**

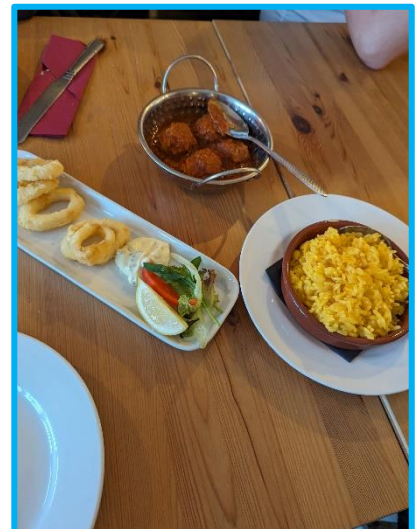
## Life at Our Academy

### Spanish



In May this year all year 8 Spanish students got the great opportunity to go to the local Spanish tapas restaurant Plaza Uno. When we got there, we used our Spanish knowledge to order drinks. From there we got to eat Spanish specialties. These included: bread, calamari, croquetas, meat balls, rice and a Spanish tortilla. Everyone enjoyed their meals and had lots of fun eating with friends, classmates and teachers. On the way back to school it started raining, but that did not dampen our moods because the food was amazing. ¡Muy bien!

*Amber C and Ruby T*



### Leavers Prom

The Year 11 Prom took place in June at Plumpton Racecourse and yet again was an incredible evening!

A vast array of transport was used, including arrivals by helicopter and on horseback, and the students dressed to impress. Throughout the evening the dance floor was packed, and the Photo Booth was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff alike.

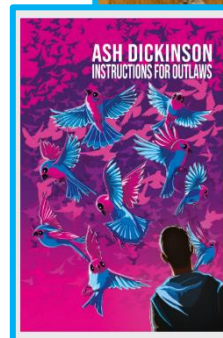
It was a fitting culmination to a memorable school year!



## English

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, the TBHA English department were thrilled to welcome performance poet, author and comedy performer **Ash Dickinson** in for the day to work with Year 8. Students were treated to a session of performance and conversation in the hall, followed by smaller workshop style sessions where all had the opportunity to write a range of poetry as well as perform. It was a joy to see such a variety of students engaging and participating outside their comfort zones and to witness many to facing their fear of public speaking when it came to sharing what they'd written.

A big thank you to all staff involved and to Year 8 for joining in so positively in the workshop sessions. Ash himself has since emailed to say that he found our Year 8s 'receptive, engaged and some fine poetry was written over the course of the day. It was a pleasure to be with you all'. Well done Year 8!



## Book Club

Back in June students from Book Club attended the Amazing Book Awards at Shoreham Academy. They had all voted for their winning choice from the 5 shortlisted books, and the evening was a celebration of the work of the authors, and of course the presentation of the awards. I don't think any of us were surprised that *Happy Head* by Josh Silver was the winner and we are keen to read the sequel, which has just been published. We listened to inspirational talks from all of the authors, learning about their writing craft and their journeys to becoming published authors. At the end of the evening there was an opportunity to meet the authors, in particular Annalise Avery and Benjamin Dean and get our books signed. It was a fabulous evening and our students were a credit to TBHA.

*Mrs Ferrier and Mr Clayton*



## Southway Science

Nine of our Year 10 students visited Southway Primary school Last week to teach them some Physics, Biology and Chemistry. They used magnets, microscopes and made pretty colours with indicators to find acids and alkalis. The Year 10's were outstanding at supporting the students and making the activities fun and exciting. The junior school students all had a lot of fun and learnt a lot. The teachers at Southway junior school were very grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Well done Year 10



## Diversity Day

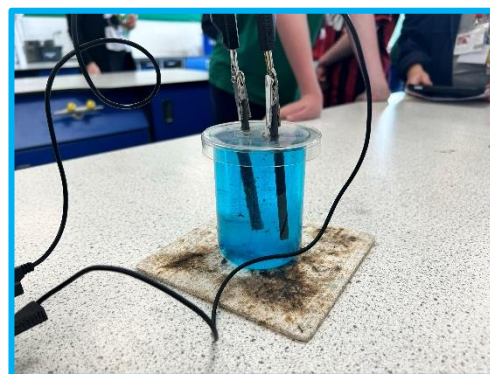
TBHA Diversity Day on 12th July was a huge success and we raised £250 for the school diversity fund! The students enjoyed activities throughout the day with a diversity focus including mapping their connections to different countries in tutor time and trying out seated volleyball in PE lessons! The bake and crafts sale, glitter station and football tournament were very popular and there was a wonderfully positive atmosphere around the school. Thank you to all who contributed!

## Primary Science Masterclass

TBHA were delighted to host a Primary Science Masterclass for all the local area primary schools on Thursday 06 July. The event was designed to allow primary students access to explore scientific procedures and understanding to a greater depth than is possible in their own schools.

The students attending were all clearly passionate scientists and performed amazingly well, safely navigating experiments with fire, acids and electricity to complete the task of obtaining pure metals.

We look forward to engaging more students in the future helping prepare them for their transition to secondary.



## Sports Day

Sports Day 2024 was blessed with good weather and students that participated with determination and enthusiasm. It started with the Year 7s on the Tuesday period 5 with a buzz of excitement and expectancy. Like all year groups they took part in 100m, 800m, High Jump, Shot Putt, Howler Throw, Tennis & Volleyball. When the scores were collated Pankhurst had an early lead. On the Wed the other year groups took turns doing the same events - and we got a school record in the Year 9 Boys Howler - Ethan D with a whopping throw of 62m and the deserved winner of the Sports day Outstanding individual achievement. Special mention to Fraser H who jumped 1.70m in the Year 10 Boys high jump and narrowly missed out on the school record which remains at 1.76m

For the afternoon, all the pupils and staff were on the field for the Relays- the traditional 4x100m and the Medley Relay 100,100,200,400. Much participation and drama took place with some fine races and close finishes. The Seacole Year 9 boys Medley Relay was only seconds away from a school record - a valiant effort epitomised by Charlie P collapsing in exhaustion on the finish line. With time running out, a hastily put together staff relay was a real crowd pleaser and won by Seacole - but in truth everyone felt like a winner (apart from a few staff that picked up injuries)

When all the events had been counted the winning house was **Farah** – congratulations!

For a full list of more detailed results please see below;

### TUTOR GROUP COMPETITION

<b>Y10:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 10S1	2 <sup>nd</sup> 10T2	3 <sup>rd</sup> 10F1
<b>Y9:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 9F2	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9S1	3 <sup>rd</sup> 9T1
<b>Y8:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 8T2	2 <sup>nd</sup> 8S1	3 <sup>rd</sup> 8F1
<b>Y7:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> S1	2 <sup>nd</sup> 7P1	3 <sup>rd</sup> 7F1

### HOUSE COMPETITION

<b>Y10:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Farah	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seacole	3 <sup>rd</sup> Turing
<b>Y9:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Turing	2 <sup>nd</sup> Farah	3 <sup>rd</sup> Seacole
<b>Y8:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Seacole	2 <sup>nd</sup> Farah	3 <sup>rd</sup> Turing
<b>Y7:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Pankhurst	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seacole	3 <sup>rd</sup> Turing

### OVERALL WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Farah**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Seacole**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Turing**
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Pankhurst**

## Drama

On Tuesday 02 July, in a packed drama studio, friends and family were invited to the premiere of 'God of Common Sense'. Written, directed and performed by Year 10 students, Esther Holliday, Katie Hughes and Jasmine Tomkins. The performance was amazing. The sheer professionalism of the cast was a delight to see. There were moments of comedic excellence combined with more sensitive scenes. The pupils have written and rehearsed the play over a two-year period and it was wonderful to see the play come to life. All involved should be super proud of themselves!

## Art

Last Thursday we took a group of Year 10 art students to Tate Modern on the banks of the Thames in London. This art museum is a fantastic place to see art from the 'modern' era (approximately 1900 to the present day) and all in the spectacular setting of the enormous de-commissioned brick power station.

Our pupils were encouraged to explore the gallery in small groups and to take in the huge variety of ways that artists make art, hopefully inspiring them in their own work going forward.

The worksheet they were given to complete asked them to choose a piece of art that links to their current topic of Identity and to sketch it. We also asked them to think carefully as they went around the building to choose one piece of art that they would take home if they could. This question always elicits interesting responses, from huge sculptures many meters high to abstract paintings that don't appear to relate to anything the pupils may have seen in real life. As we walked the huge rooms, we could see our students looking intently, making notes and sketching with real focus.

The students were all wonderful; they showed maturity in the way that they conducted themselves around the gallery and in how they approached the tasks set. We were proud of each and every one of them and look forward to seeing how the trip has encouraged them to widen their ideas of what art is and the infinite ways in which it can be made.

Finally, we would encourage anyone with an interest in art to visit Tate Modern as it's just a one hour train ride to Bankside in London and then a two minute walk to the gallery. The gardens that surround it and the beautiful skyline of the city contribute to making a visit to Tate Modern a lovely day out.

## Citizenship



Year 8 have been working on a careers unit this term. They were tasked with building a newspaper tower without talking. This tested both their teamwork and non-verbal communication skills. The lesson was enjoyed by all students



## Careers

We started the term looking at skills, jobs and career goals with two groups of Year 7 students. Working with our independent careers adviser, Carl Jackson from Elev8Careers, students looked at jobs of the future and past, they considered gender stereotypes, typical male/female job roles and how bias can affect your view of a potential career path. Students also completed a skills analysis and looked at what job roles might suit them.

We started early careers meetings for some Year 10 students. During their meetings with Carl, they look at what interests they had and how to choose an appropriate Post 16 pathway. They also considered colleges and courses to research ahead of the Autumn term when Year 11 will begin to focus on Post 16 courses and colleges.

We were delighted to welcome Lee Finlay-Gray from Varndean College to speak to a number of our Year 10 students about the International Baccalaureate. Varndean College are the only state funded sixth form to offer this qualification which allows students to student a broad curriculum of 6 subjects and achieve an internationally recognised qualification. Students were keen to hear about this different post 16 qualification and had lots of questions for Lee after the presentation.



Year 9 students received an assembly launching the Year 10 work experience programme. All Year 10 students will be taking part in one week of work experience during week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Students are encouraged to use the summer holidays to start their research and possibly approach prospective employers. Further details about this programme will be sent home when we return to school in September.

Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit a number of local sixth form and further education providers when they held their taster days this term. As well as gaining an overall understanding of college life, students had the opportunity to experience a number of subjects; particularly those which are not taught at GCSE! This was a fantastic chance to start researching post 16 destinations and considering which might suit. Colleges will hold Open Events in the Autumn term – details will be circulated in September.



On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, a group of Year 10 students took part in the Future Fields Day at Plumpton College where they had the opportunity to experience taster sessions in a number of vocational areas; such as equine, environmental, baking and adventure sport.



**Hold the date!** Parents of students currently in Year 10 – we will be holding our Post 16 Information Evening on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October starting at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to meet over 25 post 16 colleges/sixth forms and apprenticeship providers. This evening is open to students and parents – further information will be sent out at the beginning of September.

**Congratulations** to Jamie MacLeod in Year 10 who has been awarded a place on the Buckmore Park Driver Development programme in August. There are only 15 places available in the UK for this programme, which helps progress the future of those interested in pursuing a career in motorsport and F1. This is a great achievement for Jamie and his future career.

Finally, we would like to thank CSL Behring in Haywards Heath for hosting 16 of our Year 10 Triple Science students for an informative day looking at careers in the pharmaceutical world. We had the great pleasure of meeting Ross and Alex who spoke to us in detail about living with a rare blood disorder and the treatments available to them. Students were then asked to work together in small groups to consider how they might treat a patient presenting with symptoms that might mean they have a blood disorder. We definitely have some potential medics in our group!

This was followed by a presentation on the processes involved in creating medicines and we were surprised to hear that the average medicine takes approx. 12 years to be authorised for use on patients. Finally, we heard about all the different careers involved within the pharmaceutical industry – not just doctors and scientists!

The students were delighted to experience a business lunch with an amazing spread supplied by CSL Behring.

We are so grateful to everyone involved with setting up the morning for our students and look forward to visiting again.



# News and Celebrations

## Virgin Media Boxes

As local residents of the town will have seen, several of the Virgin Media boxes around Burgess Hill have been given makeovers and we have been approached to submit designs for both the box at the top of our driveway and also one in Meeds Road.

Students may submit designs as an individual or as a group, and the design will need to reflect nature or an aspect of the town e.g., community life, history, etc., and be generally upbeat. Burgess Hill Town Council are particularly keen for the box nearest us to have strong design links to The Burgess Hill Academy. Although many of the designs are 'traditional' hand painted, we welcome designs that utilise the skills students have learnt during their Art lessons ie stencilling, street art. Due to the sensitivity of the electronic equipment inside the cabinet, darker colours should not dominate the design so as not to increase the heat of the cabinet (solar gain).



*Current designs around Town*



Students should submit their designs on paper and should be handed in to Reception or direct to Mrs Bishop on our return in September. Chosen designs will have to be submitted to neighbouring properties and Ward Councillors to be consulted on each design, before seeking approval from Virgin Media. The successful designs will then be painted by the students themselves.



Box to be painted at the top of the driveway

Due to its position, the back can also be painted with a design as it is seen as you drive up from the Academy.



## Celebration Evening

This year we had the inaugural Celebration Evening recognising some of the outstanding accomplishments of our students here at TBHA over the past year.

We were thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our student's, celebrating their hard work, dedication, and passion for learning which have yielded remarkable results across various fields. From being ambassadors and leaders in their local community to excelling in sports, arts, and community service projects, our students have demonstrated exceptional talent and perseverance. Notably, several students have achieved at regional and national levels, reflecting their commitment to their talents and hobbies. We are immensely proud of our students' accomplishments and look forward to supporting their continued success in all their endeavors.



## Local Board (Governing Body)

### Local Board News

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Local Board, please look out for future emails asking for applications for any vacancy we may have. Additionally, if you work and/or have useful contacts in the local community which you believe may support our community engagement, please contact me at [j.davey@brightonacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:j.davey@brightonacademiestrust.org.uk)

Many thanks

Jane Davey  
Chair of the Local Board

# Academy Community Together (ACT)

## PTFA News

### Second Hand Uniform

We run regular sales of second hand uniform throughout the School Year and our most recent one last weekend raised £1200!

We are always gratefully for donations of second-hand uniform and continually require supplies to meet the ongoing demand, especially with new Year 7 students joining us soon. Please drop any donations of uniform into Reception, we are in desperate need of trousers and skirts.

### Comedy Night

Following a successful Comedy Night earlier this year, we will be hosting another one in October. The lineup already booked includes; Stephen Grant, Matt Richardson, Nick Elleray and Charlie Baker! Further details include how to book will be circulated in September and via our Facebook page

### Upcoming Events

<b>Second Hand Uniform Sale</b>	Tuesday 05 September	3:30 – 5:30pm in B/D Block Foyer
<b>Comedy Night</b>	Friday 11 October	7pm
<b>Quiz Night</b>	tbc	The Woolpack Pub

To keep up to date with events & second-hand uniform sales, please follow us on Facebook ACT – TBHA <https://www.facebook.com/groups/571803947227052/?ref=share>

We currently have a vacancy for role of Secretary. If you are interested please contact us on the email address below

Thank you for your continued support,

[act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

## Community News & Events

### Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme (<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/support-for-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>) provides children who are eligible for benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) access to a wide range of activities and free nutritious meals over the school holidays.

Eligible children can attend their chosen HAF provision for a maximum of four days per week for one week at Easter, four weeks during the Summer and one week at Christmas. To register and book a place, please click [here](#).

If you require support to access the internet or to complete the registration form, you can find this by visiting your local Family Hub. You can contact the HAF team by emailing [HAF@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@westsussex.gov.uk).

## Free School Meals (FSM)

### Is my child eligible?

Free school meals in all West Sussex maintained and free schools and academies are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Apply online for free school meals here:

<https://familyinfoservice.westsussex.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

## Events

### Search for a Star!

Mid Sussex Search for a Star is accepting entries into this year's competition.

There are 3 prizes of £500 to be won over 3 categories covering ALL talents.

Organised by Burgess Hill District Lions Club in partnership with local organisations and businesses, this competition is open to children between ages 4 and 18!

We're not looking for the best talent, but a talent that will benefit from a £500 investment.

So get you submissions in fast closing date is July 31st.

Here's the link for the application form:

<https://forms.gle/2TeFw46FX4D7bMqR6>

Good luck!!



The poster for the 'Mid-Sussex Search for a Star!' competition features a vibrant image of a stage performance with a large star graphic. The text on the poster includes: 'Mid-Sussex SEARCH FOR A STAR', '3 CATEGORIES', '3 £500 PRIZES', '1 COMPETITION', and 'APPLY TODAY'. A QR code is provided with the text 'SCAN TO ENTER'. Logos for sponsors are listed at the bottom: The Handmade Hire Company, Burgess Hill Town Council, 102.8FM RADIO, LEMONADE PRIST GROUP, it's pazz, and SOUTHERN.

**FREE**

-drop in to ride or book a coaching session!

Burgess Hill  
Town Council



Working together for a better Mid Sussex

STICK ON LONG TROUSERS,  
GRAB YOUR BIKE, A HELMET AND...

**...ROCK UP  
AND RIDE!**

15 AUGUST

10.30AM-4PM

BURGESS HILL BMX TRACK, RH15 8RW

-OFF MAPLE DRIVE

COACHING SESSIONS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE  
TO BOOK SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK/EVENTS/ROCK-UP-AND-RIDE/](http://WWW.BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK/EVENTS/ROCK-UP-AND-RIDE/)



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [COMMUNITYTEAM@BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK](mailto:COMMUNITYTEAM@BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK)

# Dates and Useful Information

## Dates

<b>Monday 02 September</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 03 September</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 04 September</b>	<b>Term 1 Starts – Year 7 ONLY</b>
<b>Thursday 05 September</b>	<b>All Year Groups return</b>
Friday 06 September	Year 7 & 11 Individual and Group Photographs
Tuesday 01 October	Year 11 Post 16 Evening
Thursday 10 October	Open Evening
15 – 17 October	Open Mornings
Tuesday 15 October	Thought-full Parent Workshop
Thursday 17 October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor
<b>Thursday 24 October</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>Friday 25 October</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>

## Academic Year 2024-2025

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Starts for students: Wednesday 4 September 2024</b> <b>Ends for students: Thursday 24 October 2024</b> INSET day: Friday 25 October 2024
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Starts for students: Tuesday 5 November 2024</b> <b>Ends for students: Friday 20 December 2024</b> INSET day: Monday 4 November 2024
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Starts for students: Tuesday 7 January 2025</b> <b>Ends for students: Thursday 13 February 2025</b> INSET days: Monday 6 January 2025, Friday 14 February 2025
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Starts for students: Monday 24 February 2025</b> <b>Ends for students: Friday 4 April 2025</b>
<b>Term 5</b>	<b>Starts for students: Tuesday 22 April 2025</b> <b>Ends for students: Friday 23 May 2025</b>
<b>Term 6</b>	<b>Starts for students: Monday 2 June 2025</b> <b>Ends for students: Friday 18 July 2025</b> INSET days: Monday 21 July 2025, Tuesday 22 July 2025



## Parent/Carer Information

### Reporting Student Absence

Absences should be reported by either calling the school on: 01444 241691 and select option 1, email: [absence@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:absence@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk) or use the Studybug app on your mobile by 9.00am at the latest on the first day of any absence and each day of any subsequent absence in order for us to be satisfied of your child's safety. Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

### Lost Property

We currently have a large amount of lost property, items are held in our Reception area for a short period. Please ask your child to check with Reception if they have lost items.

### 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>

### Change of contact details

If your contact details have changed, please email: [adminteam@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:adminteam@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

**Hire our Facilities** We have a large campus and a wide range of areas and facilities which are available for hire, all year round, at very competitive rates. Lettings at The Burgess Hill Academy are managed by Play Sport UK. For further information about our facilities or to make a booking, please contact [info@playsportuk.com](mailto:info@playsportuk.com)