



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 1 : September – October 2025

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

The new school year has got off to a fantastic start with a real sense of purpose and pride being shared by students and staff alike. During the last eight weeks we have seen our new Year 7 students settle into secondary school life and grow enormously in confidence. This was evident in the large number of Year 7 students who helped welcome Year 6 families on Open Evening; a particular 'Thank You' must go to Rufus, Jon and Troy who delivered interesting and entertaining speeches to open the event.

The school has been extremely busy developing stronger learning routines in lessons. All students are expected to complete a 'Do Now' retrieval activity for the first 5 minutes of all lessons – this is working well and students are settling quickly. Parents on School Tours have commented on the calm atmosphere around the school and how engaged children are.

As well as a very successful Open Evening, we also held a Community Partnership Morning this term. We invited over 30 businesses and local town representatives from the Council and other charitable organisations. Our focus was on working together to develop the reputation of the school; our students held discussions with visitors around teaching and learning, pastoral care, 'What makes you proud to be a student at TBHA' and finally, 'What opportunities would improve school life.' This was followed by a school tour. Our students, from the school Concert Band through to the final tour, were excellent ambassadors for the school and local community. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported the event!

Extra-curricular school life is growing rapidly. A large number of students have decided to begin musical instrument lessons in addition to the increasingly popular Steel Pan band. Our football and netball teams have had some significant wins, especially against certain local rivals in the last 2 weeks. I am also thrilled to announce that Mr. Robinson (Pastoral Lead for year 9) has just qualified as a Level 2 Basketball coach; basketball club is thriving and we hope to see some strong wins in future games.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support. Our students look very smart in their uniform (this has been noticed by a number of local headteachers!) and we have received excellent feedback from parents regarding our new policy of sharing positive comments with parents each week. In total this term, we have awarded children with over 100,000 achievement points. Please ask your child about the R3 award and look out for an email/check voicemail at the end of the week!

Finally, as we move into the darker and colder months of the year, it is important that we continue to develop resilience in our children. Our attendance figure as a whole school sits at 92.28%. This is an improvement on the same time last year, but there is still room for improvement. The national average is 92.96%. Please make sure that children have outdoor coats and also get to sleep at a sensible time (children do not need their phones at bedtime!).

The next term will pass quickly and the countdown to Christmas will soon be on us; it is important that we return to school refreshed and energised. I wish you all a relaxing half-term break and a fun but safe Halloween

Karen Clinton
Principal

Life at Our Academy

Y11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork Trips

Our Year 11 GCSE Geography students completed two full days of fieldwork earlier in the term. The focus of our investigation was how flows affect the sustainability of urban and rural areas.

Our first trip was to Birling Gap, where students recorded data such as visitor flows, waste management strategies and conservation efforts in the area, as well as the effect of coastal erosion. The weather was glorious and staff were very proud of how our students conducted themselves and their investigation.



A week later, we took a trip to Brighton, where the weather took a (rather sharp) turn for the worse. Despite the torrential downpour and being unable to conduct one part of our investigation in North Laine, our students demonstrated their resilience and were able to record plenty of data at the Train station, Churchill Square and the seafront. This included visitor surveys, traffic flow counts and environmental impact assessments. As one student rightly said at the time *"No geography field trip is truly complete without inclement weather of some description!"*. The sun did eventually shine that day; according to Grace (11F2) *"A lovely end to a challenging trip"*.



Congratulations to all our GCSE Geographers and well done for your hard work and perseverance in difficult conditions! You did yourselves and the school proud.

Mr D Adam

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme



The Burgess Hill Academy is extremely pleased to announce the relaunch of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Our first cohort of Year 10 students will complete three sections as part of the programme over the 6 months: Volunteering, Physical, and Skills, each designed to foster personal growth and community involvement. The programme will culminate in a challenging but rewarding expedition in the summer term. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Mr. Adam, Mrs. Sayers, Mr Katsikas

Girls' Sports News

September and October have been busy and competitive months for our girls. Year 10 showed their versatility by securing 5th place in their netball tournament, while Year 11 excelled in their tournament finishing 2nd to a strong Cardinal Newman team. The Year 9 team also displayed impressive skills, achieving 2nd place in their versatility event. Finally, the Year 10 teams wrapped up their league games with strong performances, we are waiting to hear where we have placed. A great effort all around!



Year 9 Team



Year 10 Team



Year 11 Team

The Girls U16 Football team started their new season with an unfortunate loss to a strong Varndean side which means they don't progress in the National Cup. They do however have County Cup fixtures next term vs Weald. Both the U14 and U16 leagues will commence next half-term.

Boys' Sports News

Year 7 Boys Football team have had some mixed results but have had some wins vs Sackville and a draw against St Pauls.

The season started with a rousing win 2-1 at Oathall for our Boys Year 8 Team. Further fixtures unfortunately ended in losses by just one goal.

Year 10 Boys Football Team currently top the Mid Sussex Football League and are progressing in the County Cup.

Our Year 11 Boys Football beat our local rivals Downlands 2-0 but unfortunately did not progress in the District Cup on goal difference.

Music Department

Term 1 has been a busy one in the Performing Arts department. Our extra-curricular clubs are now all up and running. Students are still more than welcome to come along and enjoy them – don't forget to collect your loyalty card!

	A1	A2
MONDAY	Year 7/8 Singers	Music Production
TUESDAY	Singspiration!	Guitar/Ukulele Club
WEDNESDAY	KS4 Composition Support	Samba Band
THURSDAY	Concert Band	
FRIDAY	Musical Theatre Club	

Instrumental Lessons

We have had a record-number of students taking part in instrumental taster sessions. Please remember that we offer a very competitive Bursary Scheme, kindly offered by arrangement from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust, reducing lesson fees from £20 to just £6.50 for many instruments.

Instrument Amnesty

We are always on the lookout for any unused instruments that may be lurking in your loft! We currently require flutes, but will happily take any instruments – they will be well-loved and used by students at the Academy.

Steel Pan Band

Our Steel Pan Band is looking for more pupils. This is run by Sussex Steel, there is a small weekly charge. They rehearse every Tuesday from 3.00pm – 4.00pm. Please contact me for details.

Congratulations

Well done to the following students for their recent exam successes:

Emma G (Year 9) – ABRSM Grade 3 piano

Ben B (Year 10) – RSL Grade 4 vocals.

Lily S (Year 11) - Runner up in the Mid-Sussex Search for a Star competition – winning £250!



Well done to **Concert Band** for their amazing performances for our Open Morning and Open Evening!

Dates for your diary:

November 2024 Spring Musical Production to be announced.
Thursday 5th December Christmas Sounds Concert – 7pm, Barnden Hall
26th – 28th March 2025 Spring Musical Theatre Production.

For any further information please contact Mrs Frean <mailto:h.frean@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk>

Drama Department

Our popular Drama Club is running again this year and takes place after school every Wednesday from 3.15pm – 4.00pm. Please speak to Ms Agius for further details.

LAMDA – spoken Drama examinations

We have secured the talents of a LAMDA teacher at the academy. Kyle will be offering 1-2-1 lessons for any pupils wishing to further their Drama skills.

TBHA F24 Race Team

An exciting new STEM project is brewing in T block with the arrival of a Greenpower F24 kit car, donated by our sister academy in Hastings.

The car will be dismantled over the half term break and interested students will be invited to help rebuild it (so that they understand how it works) next term. Our aim is to then finish it with some aerodynamic bodywork before racing the car at race tracks in the summer.

We do however need a little help! As we are a new team, we don't have any of the tools and safety equipment that we need. Currently, we are looking for:



- 2 x metric socket sets
- 2 x tool boxes
- 2 x metric sets of spanners
- Full face motorcycle helmets that are no longer used.

If you can help with any of these items, please email Mr Burdass;
m.burdass@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

Charity events

Penalty Shootout

A big thank you to the Year 8 students who helped raise £30 for the British Heart Foundation at the end of July by entering a penalty shoot-out competition.

Congratulations to Maxi who emerged as the eventual winner! We will be holding the competition again next year

Mr Clayton



Macmillan Cake Sale

Miss Doughty organised a staff Cake Sale last month in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Staff baked, ate and donated to raise an amazing £172!

Safeguarding - SHARP

We are excited to highlight the positive impact our SHARP (School Help Advice Reporting Pathway) system is having on our school community. The SHARP system is an online platform that allows students to confidentially report any concerns they may have, ranging from bullying and anti-social behaviour to other wellbeing issues. We are pleased to report that the system has been embraced by our students, who are using it actively and responsibly to help make our school environment safer and more supportive for everyone.

The SHARP system has not only made it easier for students to raise concerns, but it has also significantly improved our ability to respond effectively. Our reporting pathways are now streamlined and more efficient, allowing us to address issues quickly and ensure that students feel heard and supported. Whether it's helping resolve a conflict, preventing bullying, or addressing mental health concerns, the SHARP system is helping us keep a pulse on the needs of our students, and we are seeing the positive results in a more respectful and inclusive school atmosphere.

Additionally, students also have the opportunity to choose two staff members as their designated 'Go 2' adults. These trusted staff members serve as a direct point of contact for students to share any worries or concerns they may have in person. This initiative has been incredibly well-received, providing an extra layer of support and strengthening relationships between students and staff.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a safer and more welcoming place for all students.

The SHARP System

Need somebody to talk to?

Are you worried about yourself or a friend?
Make a report today.

This is a CONFIDENTIAL way to stop you or a friend or someone you have seen suffering.

Don't Suffer In Silence, Make A Report.
www.thesharpsystem.com

Behaviour

As part of our new Behaviour Policy, since the start of the new academic year over 1300 positive emails and phone calls home have been completed by staff at TBHA, celebrating the achievements of students in lessons and in the community. The students have started the year off in exceptional fashion and it's great that staff have been able to share their efforts with parents.

Careers



It's been a busy half term with lots of focus on our Year 11 students who are starting to think about their next steps. We have begun with a series of assemblies from local colleges and sixth forms so that students can understand all the options available to them. Our careers adviser, Carl from Elev8Careers has begun his 1-1 meetings with Year 11 helping them to narrow down their plans and understand which college open evenings to visit and which courses may assist them in achieving their goals. Our Post 16 Evening on the 1st October was well attended with over 25 local sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeship providers ready to speak to students and parents about the provision that they offer.



As part of our careers programme with the University of Brighton, Year 10 students had the first of four sessions looking at study skills and how to prepare for exams. During this session, we looked at avoidance, motivation, revision timetables and well-being. Whilst exams seem a long time off, they come around quickly and the more prepared a student is, the easier it will be. Revising little and often and understanding the wording of an exam paper is far better than trying to cram everything in the night before.

Our Year 9 students began the Dare to Dream programme with the LoveLocalJobs Foundation. This comprises of 3 assemblies from Jack "The Lad" Hayes of More Radio. The first session took place on the 17th September and Jack spoke to the students about his childhood and his struggles with poverty and bullying. He encouraged students to think about the people that they surround themselves with and whether they are the right people to be around – do they encourage positive or negative behaviours. The second session took place on 16th October and during this assembly, Jack talked about the importance of employability skills and every student being unique and having different skills that they excel in. We are sponsored to take part in this programme by First Central Insurance and they have provided us with 5 volunteers who are working with a group of 15 students after the assemblies to expand on the ideas and how they might be implemented. Jack was joined at the first session by his colleagues, Tom and Lou from More Radio (*pictured below*).



Year 10 students are also busily looking for work experience placements as they will embark on a one-week work experience during week commencing 28th April 2025. If any parents/carers feel that their work place would be able to offer a placement for a willing student, please contact me at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk. All that is needed is Employer's Liability Insurance and a willingness to provide a supportive environment for a young person to investigate your job sector. We would love to hear from you!

The Academy are proud to announce that we undertook and achieved re-assessment for the Quality in Careers Award at the beginning of October. The assessor was extremely impressed with our careers programme. Comments such as;

"A well thought out programme allowing students to make informed and aspirational decisions about their future."

"Excellent integration of careers into the curriculum."

"Excellent links with local employers and Post 16 provided which are used to good advantage."

"Overall, this was an excellent submission for the Quality in Careers Standard. Students leave The Burgess Hill Academy fully equipped for the next stage in life, thanks to the support that they receive."

Our Careers Roadmap showing some of the provision for each year group can be found on our website together with a copy of the Investors in Careers Report: [Careers and Work Placement - The Burgess Hill Academy](#)

News and Celebrations

Sporting Achievement

Charlie P (10S1) travelled to Stoke in September for the English Schools Racewalking Championships, in which Charlie was representing Sussex and The Burgess Hill Academy. Charlie had been training incredibly hard leading up to this event and it certainly paid off... He came 3rd in a 2km walk in a time of just 11.29 minutes.

Earlier this year, following his success at Lewes Athletics Club, Charlie also came 3rd in the National Athletics Championships and now runs for Great Britain at 1500km and 5km distances. We are all immensely proud of his incredible achievements.



Congratulations, Charlie!

Virgin Media Boxes

Thank you to all those who have submitted a design for the Virgin Media box at the top of our driveway and the one in Meeds Road. There have been some amazing entries, we have some talented students out there.

We are still searching for designs that reflect the Academy more strongly. We have the advantage of giving a makeover to one of the few boxes in Burgess Hill that can be seen not just at the front but also behind and this is our chance to showcase the talent and flair that our students have. If you have an idea or design that you would like to submit, either as an individual or as part of a group, please hand to Reception or directly to Mrs Bishop in the Art department.

Please remember to keep the design upbeat, not be dominated with darker colours and can utilise skills learnt during Art lessons ie stencilling, street art



Current designs around Town



Box to be painted at the top of the driveway



Open Evening

We held a very successful Open Evening earlier this month, followed by several Open Mornings, allowing prospective students from Year 6 and their families to come and tour around our school to see what we can offer. The Academy looked excellent and over 250 students volunteered to return in the evening to assist with the event.



Thank you to all the students who directed families, gave speeches, demonstrated equipment and produced a musical background to the evening and a special mention to Mr Clayton who spent the evening in the English Department dressed as Shakespeare!



Local Board (Governing Body)

Local Board News

School Governors Needed!

We are on the lookout for some new School Governors.



Are you interested in making a positive contribution towards our academy?

By volunteering as a Governor, you will be a champion for children's welfare, learning and achievement, play a key role in ensuring that stakeholder views contribute to the work of the academy and ensure that the academy is at the heart of the local community. Becoming a Local Governor is a commitment and responsibility but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community. Click [here](#) to find out about these important roles.

For more information and how to apply, please contact Emily Gross on

e.gross@brightonacademiustrust.org.uk

The closing date is 11th November.

Academy Community Together (ACT)

PTFA News

The start of the Academic year for the PTFA has already been busy and successful. We start the year with £6,500 in the account with lots of planned events to come raising more for future projects.

The students had the surprise of the outdoor gym installed over the summer kindly funded by The Lions Club, with the addition of seating funded by the PTFA. This area is regularly used throughout the school day.



We held a Second-hand uniform before the start of term which raised £350 and supported families in getting the essentials required. We are always gratefully for donations of second-hand uniform and continually require supplies to meet the ongoing demand. Please drop any donations of uniform into Reception, we are in desperate need of trousers and skirts.

On the 11th October we held our second Comedy Night which again was a great success with a sell-out of tickets and a busy bar. The night raised an amazing £1,200 to add to the fundraising pot.

The next event coming up on 12th November is a Quiz Night at the Woolpack, there are still tables available. So, if you fancy a fun Tuesday night then gather a team and book a table: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/tbha-act/index.cfm?event=Shop>

Date for the diary, the **PTFA AGM Meeting will be held on 20th November at 6.45pm** in the Drama Studio. Open to anyone who wants to find out more. If you are interested in joining the committee or could spare some time to support future events please get in contact via our email. We currently have a vacancy for role of Secretary. If you are interested please contact us: act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

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>

Thank you for your continued support,

Shuna China
Chair

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.

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

Mid Sussex District Council and Burgess Hill Town Council have arranged several events aimed at children from 3-18. The following events will take place in The Martlets Marquee, erected on the site of the Old Library. For more events organised by Burgess Hill Town Council, please see [October 2024 Half Term Activities! - Burgess Hill Town Council](#)

The following events are organised by Mid Sussex District Council
with co-funding from NewRiver.

**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE AND WILL BE HELD AT
THE MARTLETS MARQUEE, RH15 9NN**

Follow along on



Funded by
UK Government

Keep up-to-date for the latest info by checking our website
www.midsussex.gov.uk or on social media

LASER TAG (families / ages 6+)

Family fun in an inflatable laser tag arena.

Saturday October 26th. 11am – 3pm

No
booking
needed

INFLATABLE NIGHTCLUB, SILENT DISCO, DJ WORKSHOPS (families / ages 8+)

Learn how to become a superstar DJ and enjoy a
silent disco in an inflatable nightclub.

Sunday October 27th. 11am – 3pm

No
booking
needed

SKATEBOARDING SKILLS (ages 8 - 16)

Become a skater for a day and learn the basics to get
you on your way. Booking is needed via our website
www.midsussex.gov.uk or using the QR code.

**Monday October 28th and Tuesday
October 29th. 11am - 3pm**

Booking
needed



Scan to book

SPRAY PAINTING WORKSHOPS (ages 8 - 16)

Create your own artwork in the form of a tote bag or vinyl record design. Only 10 places per session so booking is needed via our website

www.midsussex.gov.uk or using the QR code.

 **Wednesday October 30th. 10am – 4pm**

Booking
needed



Scan to book

CIRCUS SKILLS AND HALLOWEEN FACE PAINTING (families / ages 5 - 16)

Learn how to be a circus all-star with tricks and tips from the experts. Get ready for halloween with spooky face painting.

 **Thursday October 31. 11am – 3pm**

No
booking
needed

MINI GOLF COURSE (families / ages 6 - 16)

Hone your crazy golf skills on an indoor mini course.

 **Friday November 1st. 11am – 3pm**

No
booking
needed

GAMES TENT (families / ages 6 - 16)

Family fun with didi cars, inflatable dart boards, a bowling alley and arcade games.

 **Saturday November 2nd and Sunday
November 3rd. 11am – 3pm**

No
booking
needed

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 04 November

Tuesday 05 November

Thursday 06 September

Thursday 05 December

Thursday 12 December

Friday 20 December

Monday 06 January

Tuesday 07 January

Inset Day

Term 2 Starts

GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening

Christmas Sounds Concert

Flu Vaccinations – All Years

End of Term

Inset Day

Term 3 Starts

Academic Year 2024-2025

Term 1

Starts for students: Wednesday 4 September 2024

Ends for students: Thursday 24 October 2024

INSET day: Friday 25 October 2024

Term 2

Starts for students: Tuesday 5 November 2024

Ends for students: Friday 20 December 2024

INSET day: Monday 4 November 2024

Term 3

Starts for students: Tuesday 7 January 2025

Ends for students: Thursday 13 February 2025

INSET days: Monday 6 January 2025, Friday 14 February 2025

Term 4

Starts for students: Monday 24 February 2025

Ends for students: Friday 4 April 2025

Term 5

Starts for students: Tuesday 22 April 2025

Ends for students: Friday 23 May 2025

Term 6

Starts for students: Monday 2 June 2025

Ends for students: Friday 18 July 2025

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 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

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