



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 2 : November – December 2024

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the incredible progress and achievements of our students. It has been a term filled with hard work, positive behaviour, and a sense of community.

One of the highlights of the term was our involvement in the Remembrance Day community events, where our students represented the school with pride, showing respect and gratitude for those who have served. Additionally, our Christmas Sounds event was a huge success, spreading festive cheer throughout the school and showcasing the growing talent of our students.

We have also had some unforgettable experiences, including trips to London to see the spectacular Hamilton musical. Our students have also been actively involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, where they have shown great dedication, taking on challenges that help them develop essential life skills. Their determination is something we should all be proud of.

In lessons, we have focused on developing our retrieval techniques, ensuring that all our students are able to recall knowledge quickly and confidently. This has been a key part of our efforts to improve academic performance and encourage independent learning. Alongside this, we have placed a strong emphasis on reading and phonics, aiming to support all students in becoming fluent readers. We want every student to feel confident in applying disciplinary literacy in all subjects, equipping them with the tools for academic success.

This week, we have celebrated our hard work with our annual celebration assemblies. We have doubled the number of awards available, recognising even more students for their dedication and achievements. To further motivate and reward our students, we have introduced a new attendance competition, with the winning tutor groups enjoying a special pizza treat this week.

Finally, Father Christmas decided to come early delivering the gift of OFSTED! While the report will be published at the end of January or early February, I am extremely proud to share that our students were absolutely fantastic throughout the inspection. They demonstrated hard work, high levels of courtesy, and positive interactions with the inspectors, truly reflecting the values of our school.

A huge thank you to all parents for your continued support, kind words, cards, and gifts. Your support has meant so much to us, and we appreciate the strong partnership we share in ensuring the best for our students.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a restful break. We look forward to another exciting and successful term in the new year!

Karen Clinton
Principal



Life at Our Academy

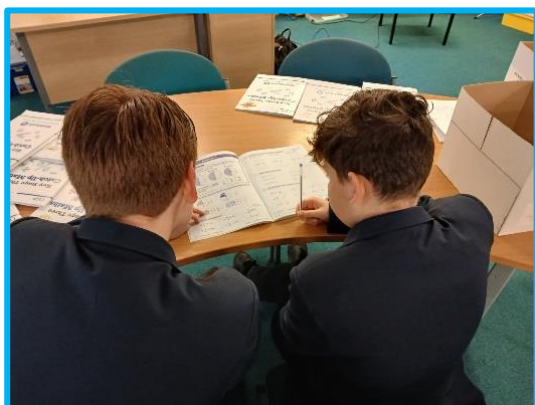
English performance

Gripped and riveted, our wonderful Year 8 students enjoyed a performance of A Christmas Carol on the 26th November. London-based travelling theatre company Quantum Theatre brought this ageless classic to Barnden Hall and thrilled students and staff alike. Skilfully, the actors sang, danced and brought Dickens' tale of love, redemption and the Christmas spirit to a thankful audience. Supporting our Y8 study of the text in English lessons, students watched the novella come to life and behaved wonderfully – making all the teachers and Pastoral Lead for Y8 immensely proud of them. A festive treat for all!



Maths Mentors

25 Year 10's have recently taken on the role of Maths Mentors. Every Tuesday morning during registration they work with 30 Year 7's to support them with their maths and answering questions they may have about school life.



It has been a really positive start with an enthusiastic, productive buzz in the two rooms. Students are using differentiated books to work through, getting instant feedback and support from the Year 10's.

ASDAN Trip



Both Year 11 ASDAN groups enjoyed a long walk to the water tower this week. We conducted a litter survey, enjoyed the mindful views and (how excitingly) got some waves from the train drivers!



Sports News

Girls

November and December have been a busy and competitive month for our girls. The Y9 netball girls had their league which saw them place 4th overall.

The U16 girls football team reached the 4th round of the county cup before getting knocked out by a strong Ardingly College team. The U16s have the district league to look forward to in the new year and U15's have the national cup to look forward to in the new year.

The U14s girls football have played two league matches this term against Forest and Weald. The first game against Forest saw TBHA come out victorious with a 1-0 win. Well done to Maisie W who scored the goal for TBHA and Bella M who was Player of the Match. The second match against Weald was less favourable. TBHA lost 3-1 to a very well-disciplined Weald team. Well done to goal scorer Emmy C and Player of the Match Esme B. The U14s will continue their league in the new year.

Boys

This term has been a celebration of basketball, with an impressive number of boys enthusiastically joining the after-school club. The school teams have faced tough competition against local schools, delivering a mix of results but consistently showcasing hard work and potential.

A particular highlight was the Year 7 Inter-House Basketball tournament, which saw a great turnout. In a gripping and hard-fought final, Turing House emerged victorious. Additionally, this term has featured thrilling inter-house contests across multiple sports, including Year 7 and Year 8 football, as well as Year 8 basketball.

Our Year 10 boys football team narrowly missed a spot in the District Cup semi-finals and battled valiantly in a 7-goal thriller in the County Cup. Meanwhile, the Year 11 football team continues to advance confidently into the latter stages of the County Plate competition.

Performing Arts Department

Christmas Sounds

Many thanks to all students who gave up their time to perform in Christmas Sounds 2024. The concert was a resounding success and featured such a wide array of different musical styles – ranging from Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' to 'Lose Control' by Teddy Swims. The Concert featured solos and duets and the larger Music Department Ensembles: Concert Band, Academy Singers, Steel Band, Musical Theatre Club & Singspiration!

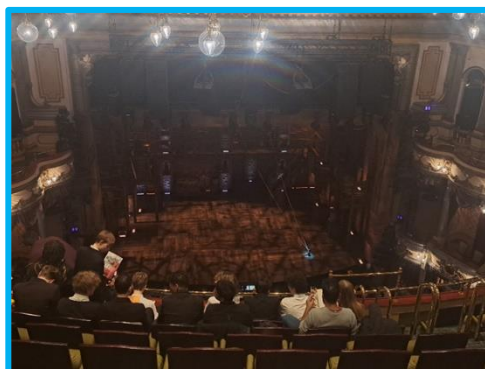


St Edward's Carol Service

Academy Singers were delighted to have been invited to perform at the Mid Sussex District Council Chairman's Civic Carol Service, on Sunday 8th December. They performed 'Somewhere only we know', written and performed by the local group Keane. It was a lovely event, followed by some very tasty refreshments!

Hamilton Musical Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 26 November, 30 of our Year 9 students travelled to London to see the hit West-End Musical 'Hamilton'. There was a slight technical hitch near the beginning and the show was paused for 5 minutes whilst everything was sorted. It turned out that a light had broken, had to be removed and sorted out in time for Act 2. How refreshing to hear that technical hitches occur in professional shows! After the show we were treated to a 20-minute Q & S session featuring members of the cast and creative team. It was a fabulous insight into the wonderful work of musical theatre.



"Hamilton The Musical" was absolutely brilliant. It's a musical composed of no actual acting – singing only and I think that's a really good way to portray a story. If you enjoy singing, dance, and musical theatre, then "Hamilton" is for you! *Jess J (Year 9)*

Legally Blonde – The Musical

We are currently in the midst of auditioning for our Spring Production of 'Legally Blonde'. We have been completely blown away by the standard! We look forward to sharing more information with you in the Term 3 newsletter!

LAMDA – spoken Drama examinations

These will be starting in January, if you missed the original email please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Congratulations

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

Ollie O (Year 10)	RSL Grade 4 vocals
Cosmin T (Year 11)	ABRSM Grade 5 piano
Ryan S (year 9)	ABRSM Grade 4 piano

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 Band

Our **Steel 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.

Dates for your diary:

26 – 28 March 2025 'Legally Blonde – The Musical'

03 July 2025 Summer Sounds Concert

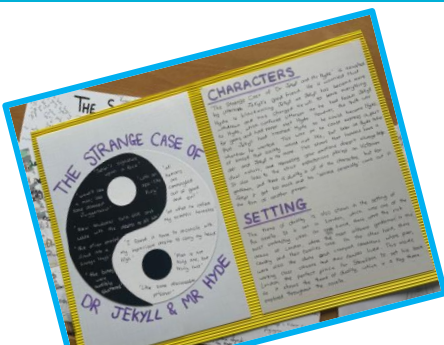
For any further information please contact Mrs Freaan (Performing Arts Subject Lead)

h.freaan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

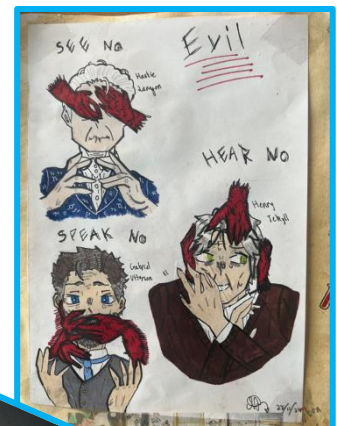
Personal Development

Pupils across the school enjoyed visits from a local police officer this term in Personal Development lessons. Speaking with pupils about a wide range of issues and pupils worked really well in the lessons to further their understanding, a few even tried on the handcuffs! The visits will continue in the new term for those not yet visited.

English



10XE having been studying Jekyll and Hyde this half term. To support their understanding of the key theme duality, students were tasked with creating an artefact which demonstrated this theme. The students went above and beyond with showcasing their creativity and I was immensely proud of all the students, who all delivered unique and creative artefacts.



Spelling Bee

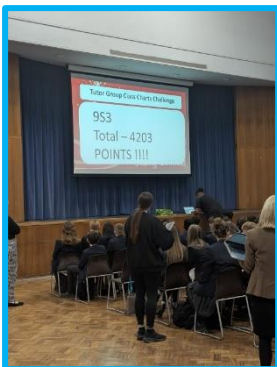
For the last 4 weeks Mr Clayton has run the Annual Spelling Bee, assisted by Year 10 students, Max S, Own L, Sam M, Charlie M & Ben K.

After a challenging couple of rounds, the winners were declared:

- Year 7 Rehma H
 Koray K
- Year 8 Sam V-C (who defended his title from last year)
 Izzy I
- Year 10 Charlie M
 Ben K (Runner-up)



Reward Events



After another successful term we finished the week with plenty of celebration events!

Each year group had their own Rewards Assembly. A full set of Department rewards were handed out to the students recognised by each department for their outstanding efforts in their lessons.



In addition to the assemblies each student in each year group who have got through the term with zero negatives were treated to Christmas Films and popcorn to celebrate their achievements. In some year groups over 50% of the year group were involved, once more demonstrating the wonderful standards set by our students.

There was also a Pizza Party this week for those students that had received the most 100% Attendance Weeks, recognising and celebrating those that ensure they are doing everything they can to be in school and in lessons learning. A great effort.



Attendance

We are delighted to celebrate the dedication and engagement of our students in this term's Attendance Competition. Attendance is key to academic success and personal development, and our students have embraced this challenge with remarkable enthusiasm.

This term, we launched an exciting initiative to recognise and reward excellent attendance across the school. Tutor groups in each year (Years 7 to 11) competed to achieve the highest number of individual 100% attendance weeks. The winning groups earned the prestigious prize of a Domino's pizza party – a delicious reward for their outstanding commitment!

Congratulations to Our Winning Tutor Groups:

- Year 7T2 (Mr Cable)
- Year 8P2 – (Mr Patient)
- Year 9F1 – (Ms Gaiger)
- Year 10T2 – (Mrs Bishop)
- Year 11T2 – (Mr Eyre)

These groups exemplified the importance of consistent attendance, demonstrating both personal responsibility and collective effort.

As highlighted in Working Together to Improve School Attendance, missing just one or two days a month can significantly impact a child's ability to succeed. Regular attendance ensures students stay on track academically, build positive routines, and maintain strong relationships with their peers and teachers. This term's competition has not only inspired students to aim for perfect attendance but has also created a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose within tutor groups.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their dedication and determination this term, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the Spring term. To all our students, parents, and staff: thank you for your support and commitment to making attendance a priority. Let's keep working together to achieve even greater success.





Careers at TBHA Term 2

We started back after October half term with a workplace visit for the students taking part in the Dare to Dream mentoring programme. 14 students received a guided tour of the First Central Insurance offices in Haywards Heath followed by a presentation to help them understand what insurance is and the jobs involved. After this, in their groups, students competed to see who could complete a virtual Escape room created by the team at First Central Insurance. We were impressed by the speed at which the students raced through the various challenges! Finally, the students had a Speed Networking challenge – speaking to 5 employees from different areas of the company and guessing which job they had. The visit was rounded up by a business lunch (the highlight of the morning for most students!). We are very grateful to our sponsors, First Central Insurance for supporting our school and most importantly, the students!

Year 7 began their introduction to careers with an engaging session of the University game. Student ambassadors from the University of Brighton came to the Academy with a board game based around life at university. In groups supported by an ambassador, students competed to see who would end the game in credit and who would need huge loans. During the game, students were given information on various aspects of student life by their ambassador! Great fun was had by all!



Year 11 students continued to hear from local colleges and sixth forms in their series of Post 16 assemblies and began to focus on making college applications. We also began a series of tutorial sessions based around revision techniques and preparing for their upcoming GCSE mock exams in January.

The final session of Dare to Dream took place on the 18th November and Year 9 students heard from Jack "The Lad" from More Radio and LoveLocalJobs Foundation about the importance of resilience and mental health. He encouraged students to always strive to be the best possible version of themselves and treat others kindly.



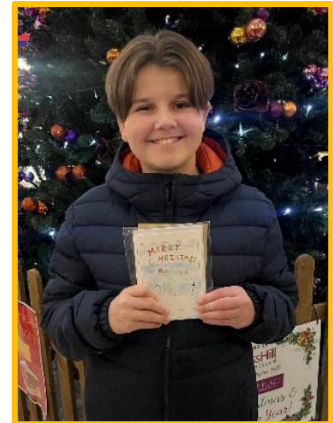
Finally, Year 10 students looked at a variety of revision techniques during sessions with the University of Brighton. Whilst it is very early into their GCSEs, it is important that students investigate which techniques will work best for them. Starting now and setting up a revision timetable, little and often can make such a difference to final outcomes for students. Not only that but starting revision now and feeling more prepared going into exams can help anxiety and mental health. If any students need assistance with creating a revision timetable, tutors will be happy to help them. This is the second of four sessions looking at a variety of study skills. We will also be teaching students vision strategies in tutor time next year in preparation for their mocks in the summer.

News and Celebrations

Christmas Card competition

Both Ava P (Year 7) and Arum S (Year 8) were winners of a Design a Christmas Card competition, run and judged by the Burgess Hill Mayor.

Each winner received a book token, which they were presented with by the Mayor at the Christmas Lights switching on ceremony.



The Town Council arranged for and had the cards printed and are for sale in the Town Council shop on Church Walk. 50p for a pack of the 3 different designs. All proceeds go to The Pantry, the adopted Charity of the Youth Council

Christmas Window Judging

Members of the Burgess Hill Youth Council were asked to be judges of the Burgess Hill Christmas Shop window competition earlier this month. Along with our Chair of Governors, Mrs Jane Davey, 3 students visited over 20 shop windows in Burgess Hill before making a decision.

Pictured are the students, Sophie C (Year 9), Shahanujan S (Year 8) and James BE (Year 7) outside the winning entry to the shop Christmas window competition, Franks American Diner.



Christmas Hamper Project



Thank you to all those families who donated tinned vegetables, UHT milk, jelly and Angel Delight for the Christmas Hamper Project earlier this month.

The project is organised by the Town Council, Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Burgess Hill District Lions Club and The King's Church Mid-Sussex. This year along with our support and other schools/businesses in the area, 253 hampers were distributed over one weekend to families identified as being in need.

Burgess Hill Youth Council

The Burgess Hill Youth Council has wrapped up another remarkable year, marked by the passion of its members who have worked tirelessly to represent the voices of young people in our community. We extend our thanks to all outgoing Youth Council representatives for their incredible contributions.

In particular, we want to express our deepest gratitude to Harvey H (Year 8), who served as Youth Mayor, and Molly T (Year 7), our Deputy Youth Mayor. Their leadership and commitment to improving the lives of young people in Burgess Hill have been inspiring.



Looking forward to the next year, we are thrilled to welcome Zahra B (Year 7) as the new Youth Mayor. Zahra brings fresh energy and ideas to the council, and we are excited to see how her leadership will shape the year ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Youth Council, and here's to another year of making a difference in our community.

Local Board (Governing Body)

Local Board News

November 2024 Parents Survey

Thank you to the many parents who completed our survey in November. You gave us extremely useful information telling us what you liked about our school and what improvements you would like to see made.

We will shortly be sharing the results with our Principal, Senior Leadership Team, members of the Trust Executive team and our Chair of Trustees. Our Chair, Siobhan Denning, has recently written to parents in relation to future changes to be made at the Trust in the name of greater transparency, so it is equally important that we pass on your parent voice to her.

It is our intention to communicate progress made on the delivery of the improvements you told us you would like to see, in future school newsletters - so please watch this space.

Changes to our Local Board

We would like to say a huge thank you to Rob Stanbridge, who recently stood down as a member of our Local Board after 4 years - we are very grateful to him for his contribution.

We would also like to say welcome to our newest Local Board member, Howard Collins, who is a parent at our school and an experienced school governor.

Academy Community Together (ACT)

PTFA News

Thank you to all those who supported our Quiz Night at the Woolpack back in November. Along with raffle tickets and entry costs, we raised an amazing £500!

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

We are making plans to hold another second-hand uniform sale soon to support families in getting the essentials required. We are aware how quickly children grow out of their uniform! 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.

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.

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>

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 06 January	Inset Day
Tuesday 07 January	Term 3 Starts
Wednesday 22 January	Young Musician Competition
Thursday 23 January	Y9 PCE with Option Guidance
Thursday 06 February	Y10 PCE
Thursday 13 February	Deadline for Y9 Options Forms Y8 PCE
Friday 14 February	Inset Day
	End of Term
Monday 24 February	Term 4 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