



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 3 : January – February 2025

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the publication of our OFSTED report at the start of the term, we have been extremely busy building on all the positive aspects of life at our Academy.

I would like to say a particular 'Thank you' and 'Well Done' to all our Year 11 students who conducted themselves so well during their mock exams. We received many comments from the exam invigilators on how focused and polite the students were – this bodes well for the final exams in Terms 5 and 6. We want the very best for our year 11s and have introduced a range of revision workshops and targeted support for Lesson 6 which begins next term.

This term has seen Parents/Carers' Evenings for several year groups together with an Options Information Evening – thank you to all parents / carers who have attended. Our students really thrive from support from both home and school; if you were unable to attend, please do contact your child's subject teachers.

We are working hard as a school to develop our standards in reading and writing. This week we are introducing DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time – this is a whole-school strategy where all students and staff will devote time to reading for pleasure. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child brings a book to school; please use the fantastic local library in Burgess Hill!

Since Christmas, we have started to expand our curriculum to incorporate a Forest School. Our Forest School students have begun to design the layout of the plot of land, visited a garden centre to purchase equipment and have sown a variety of seeds. We are at an exciting stage in our development as a school and it is most encouraging to see how our students are responding – we have already seen a reduction in our suspension rate and attendance is improving. Both of these are areas we need to improve following our OFSTED report and I am confident that we will continue to move in the right direction. Thank you, as always for your support.

Outside of lessons, our students have been engaged in representing our Academy at the Holocaust Memorial Event in Burgess Hill. Our student ambassadors have helped with tree planting and a group of Year 10 Science students participated in the GCSE Science Live day in Brighton.

Finally, we have launched a number of opportunities to enrich school life – these include a Prayer Room for use at lunchtime, a Year 7 History visit to Dover Castle, a Year 10 History visit to the Battlefields in France and Belgium, visits to The Depot, Lewes and a Year 10 Spanish/Geography visit to Granada, Spain. Please look out for other opportunities which we hope to offer for Years 8 and 9 soon.

Finally, it remains for me to wish you a relaxing break. Let's hope that we begin to see a little more of the Spring sunshine so that the daffodils finally begin to bloom!

Karen Clinton
Principal

Life at Our Academy

Science Competition

Earlier this term, The Burgess Hill Academy competed in our first *Top of the Bench* Chemistry Competition, a prestigious national event organized by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Representing the Downland region - which includes Sussex, Surrey, and parts of London - our team went head-to-head with schools from across the area in the regional final.

The competition was fierce, with participants from well-established private schools. However, our exceptional students rose to the challenge and secured a remarkable **3rd place finish**, beating all the aforementioned schools!



The team, made up of Christopher S (*Year 9*), Annie C (*Year 9*), Satyashree K (*Year 10*), and Lucas C (*Year 11*), demonstrated outstanding teamwork, problem-solving skills, and scientific knowledge throughout the evening. We are particularly proud to report that our Year 9 students shone brightly, winning their quiz round against all other schools!

This achievement is a testament to the students' hard work and passion for science, as well as the dedication of our teaching staff in nurturing their talents. Their performance reflects the high standards and aspirations of our school community.

Once again, congratulations to Christopher, Annie, Satyashree, and Lucas - you've made us all immensely proud!

Personal Development



Year 8 this term have taken part in practical first aid lessons. Learning about Primary Surveys, Recovery position and CPR. Pupils volunteered to be our "casualty" and were put into recovery positions. Many enjoyed creating the "danger" for the volunteers to clean up before checking for response from the casualty. They practiced CPR to the beat of the Bee Gee's Stayin' Alive, many exclaiming it's harder than it looks on TV! The pupils enjoyed the lessons and hopefully gained some vital life skills.



Tree Planting

Last month, our Eco, Community and Wellbeing Student Ambassadors had the opportunity to participate in a rewarding community tree planting project at Plumpton College. They learned about the vital role trees play in improving air quality, supporting wildlife, and combating climate change. After an engaging demonstration, the students got hands-on experience planting over 100 saplings, working together in a great example of teamwork.



It was a fantastic day filled with learning, and making a positive impact on our local area—one tree at a time!"

Sports News

Girls

The U16 girls have had a tricky term with fixtures due to injury and illness. They, unfortunately, got knocked out of the national cup, where last year they got to the quarter-finals. They have had success in the district league and beat Weald 3-2 (with only 10 players!) Well done to Evie S for scoring and Grace T for scoring twice. Player of the match was Grace T and opposition player was Rebecca B with some fantastic saves made in goal. The U14 and U16 matches will continue into the start of next term.

The Y11 netball team have had their final game for TBHA with the end of season tournament. All the girls played brilliantly and finished joint winners! Big wins over Downlands and Oathall with some nail-biting close games against Sackville and St Paul's. Big shout out to our leaving players; Mia S, Millie H, Chloe B, Grace M and Amelia W. A big thank you to the Y10s who helped support. Overall player of the tournament went to Millie H.

The Y8 netball team had their league this term, with some games postponed due to bad weather! The final matches are concluded this week and we await to find out where they have placed in the league.

The U15 indoor Girls cricket team have their tournament on the last week of term, a new team and competition for TBHA, we wish them good luck!



Boys

It has been a great term for the PE department despite the weather!

The Year 10 basketball team has been on a winning streak. Their recent performances have been a testament to their hard work in training, and we look forward to seeing how they continue their impressive run.

Meanwhile, the Year 11 football team are making great progress in the County Shield competition, having reached the third round. The team has shown fantastic commitment and resilience in each match, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue their journey in the tournament.

Our Year 7 and 8 rugby training sessions have seen excellent attendance, with students showing great enthusiasm and effort. With a match scheduled after half term, the squad is training hard and looking forward to the challenge ahead.

Another exciting development is that all KS3 pupils will have the opportunity to choose an activity pathway after half term. This will allow students to focus on activities they enjoy and want to develop further, ensuring a fun and engaging experience for everyone.

Finally, we are looking forward to some cross-country running after half term. This will be a great opportunity for students to build endurance, challenge themselves, and enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise.

Rotary Young Musician

On Wednesday 22nd January we hosted the Rotary Young Musician competition.

A massive well done to our 12 students representing the Academy:

Erin (clarinet), Hillary (vocalist), Wilf (piano), Lucy (alto sax), Ollie (vocalist), Lily (tenor sax), Zack (vocalist), Christopher (piano)



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Sophie (clarinet)

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Kasper (drums)

INSTRUMENTAL WINNER: Oliver (bass guitar)

VOCALIST WINNER: Eve

We are so proud of you all!



F24 Car Club

Work has begun on The Burgess Hill Academy's F24 racing car! A team of year 9 and 10 students have started working on our 24 volt Greenpower racing car that was donated to us last year. We are aiming to complete the building and testing this spring, ready for our first racing events (which are 1.5hour endurance events) this summer. Watch this space for future updates!



Brighton Bouldering

Nine students from Years 8 to 10 took part in a climbing session at Boulder Brighton Climbing Gym after we were invited back following last year's visit.

Some students were a bit nervous at first, but by the end, everyone was confidently making their way to the top. There was plenty of friendly competition over who could complete the hardest climbs, and all students seemed to enjoy the challenge.

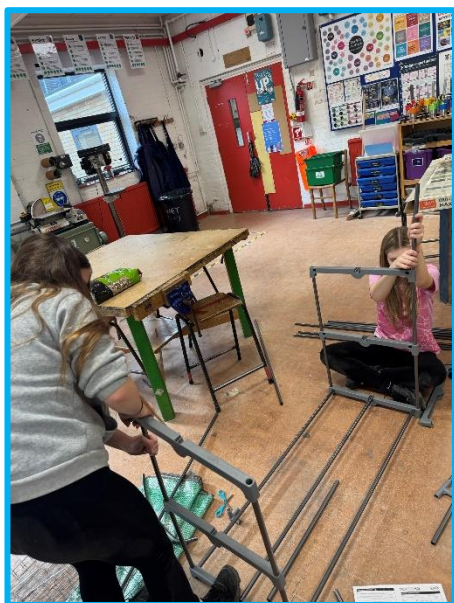
Although they left with sore fingertips, they also left with smiles.



A great effort from all involved!

Forest School

This term we have started up our Forest School provision with a wonderful group of year 9 students. So far we have started organising our space, planted lots of seeds, learnt how to use key tools all the while enjoying the outdoor space in and around our school. We hope to continue to grow our site and create a calm, nurturing and creative space for our students to enjoy. One of our favourite sessions so far has been taking a trip to Hassocks Garden Centre to collect some essential supplies. Our students took on the challenge of carrying home a load of supplies, including soil, seed and a greenhouse! We then spent the afternoon putting together our greenhouse, making bird feeders and planting lots of seeds for our garden. It has been wonderful to see our first group of students fully take on the challenge while learning key skills and having fun while doing it.



How can you help?

We are in need of some tools and materials that you may be able to help with. If you are willing to donate any resources for our Forest School, please get in touch with Miss Dewey (c.dewey@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

Shovels
Gardening gloves
Soil
Wooden pallets

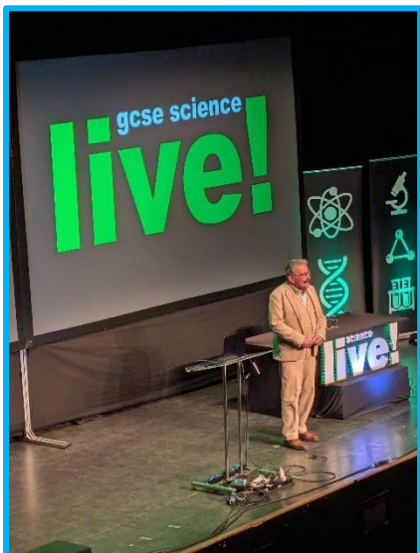
Bricks
Wood
Old water proofs
Wellies
Hats
Warm gloves
Tarpaulin

Any help and donations will be greatly appreciated!



GCSE Science Live!

Our Year 10 students recently had the opportunity to attend a GCSE Science event in Brighton. The day included 5 guest speakers (including Prof Robert Winston), who spoke about different aspects of Science and a Chief Examiner, who gave the students some top tips and techniques.



Our trip to the Brighton Dome for GCSE Science Live was so much fun! The passion from all the speakers was incredible, and hearing top scientists talk about their careers was fascinating. Each speaker had a different style, which kept it really engaging. A highlight for me was seeing one of my favourite scientists, Maggie Aderin-Pocock she was so inspiring. Overall, me and my friends had an amazing time, and it had motivated me to find a career I am just as passionate about!

- Nyra Hussain

Performing Arts

Academy Concert Band Inspires Young Musicians at London Meed

Our school's concert band recently brought the joy of music to the next generation, performing a short but lively concert at London Meed Primary school. The performance, held on Thursday 13th February, gave the younger students a chance to experience live music up close and even join in on the fun.

The primary school students clapped along, and even joined in with some singing! The band performed: I'm still standing, The Bare Necessities, Final Countdown, Livin' on a prayer and Shut up and Dance.

"It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm," said Mrs Freat. "Hopefully, some of these students will be inspired to take up an instrument in the future."

The concert was a great opportunity for our musicians to share their talents with the community and encourage a love of music in young students. A big thank you to London Meed for hosting us—we hope to play for you again soon!



Legally Blonde – The Musical

We are currently in the middle of rehearsals for our Spring Production of Legally Blonde: The Musical – A Fabulous, High-Energy Adventure!

“Get ready to bend and snap your way into *Legally Blonde: The Musical*! This dazzling show follows Elle Woods, a fashion-savvy sorority queen who trades her Malibu lifestyle for Harvard Law to win back her ex. But along the way, she discovers her true power, proving that being smart and stylish isn’t mutually exclusive! Packed with humour, heart, and high-energy musical numbers, this show is an unmissable celebration of confidence, friendship, and staying true to yourself. Accompanied by a professional 10-piece band the show is sure to be a sell out!

So, don’t miss out – ticket information available soon.

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:

26th – 28th March 2025 – ‘Legally Blonde – The Musical’

3rd July – Summer Sounds

For any further information please contact Mrs Frean at the Academy –
h.frean@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk



Careers at TBHA Term 3

The focus this term has been with Year 9 as they choose which GCSEs they would like to study in Year 10. We started with workshops with the University of Brighton where we looked more closely at the reasons for choosing GCSEs. Students considered the subjects that they were currently doing well in and the skills that they learnt from them. Student ambassadors from the University supported them in looking more closely at their reasons for choosing GCSEs.

This was followed by two workshops with our Careers Adviser from Elev8Careers, Carl Jackson, who worked with selected students on how to make an informed decision, understanding the levels that they are working towards and what criteria might be needed in order to study a particular subject.

We held two special assemblies where teachers of subjects that are not taught at Key Stage 3 such as; Business, Photography, Film Studies & Engineering gave presentations about their subjects and explained what studying them might look like and lead into.

Finally, Year 9 students with their parents and carers came to Year 9 Guided Choices Parents Evening where they had a chance to speak to subject teachers directly about whether their subject was suitable for them.

11 Year 8 students who are taking part in the BHAFC Social Enterprise Challenge have been working hard on their ideas to raise awareness of the work that the Foundation do in two workshops – supported by Hayley from BHAFC and some volunteers from American Express. They are looking forward to going to the AMEX Stadium in March to present their ideas.

We celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with a series of assemblies. We were delighted to welcome Annie from Edwards Vacuum to speak to Year 7 students about the benefits of an apprenticeship and explain what it involves. It's fantastic to have the support of such a large local company.



Our Year 8 students heard about the variety of apprenticeships available in the Land-Based industries with an assembly from Plumpton College and our Year 9 and 10 students were given a greater understanding of apprenticeships with individual assemblies from Amazing Apprenticeships.



Year 11 students interested in pursuing apprenticeships Post 16 took part in a workshop from Carl from Amazing Apprenticeships helping them to understand where vacancies are advertised and how to apply for them. Some valuable tips given on the best way to answer questions and prepare for assessment centres.

Finally, Year 11 students were encouraged to think about a potential route into university by The University of Brighton Outreach who gave students practical information about the cost of university, student loans, researching now to ensure that you will meet entry requirements for the course that you are interested in.

News and Celebrations

Burgess Hill Youth Council

This week saw another Burgess Hill Youth Council meeting at the Town Council Chamber. This time our students had the exciting opportunity to engage in discussions with MP Alison Bennett and her Chief of Staff, Kirsty Lord.



In preparation for the meeting, student council members, representing from schools across Burgess Hill, canvassed their peers to gather thoughtful and insightful questions, covering a range of topics from local town developments to national political issues - and even a question about U.S. President Donald Trump! During the session, Alison Bennett shared her journey into politics, what motivated her to become an MP, and her views on key issues affecting young people today. Students actively took part in a discussion exercise, exchanging ideas with peers from other schools and making their voices heard on matters that impact their future.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in real-world politics, develop their confidence in public speaking, and understand the importance of civic participation.

A huge well done to all our students who contributed to this insightful and engaging session.

Academy Community Together (ACT)

PTFA News

Thank you to anyone who has donated uniform their children have grown out of! Our second-hand sales are proving to be very successful and raised over £3000 last year. Dates of the next sales are as follows;

Saturday 22 March 10am – 12:30pm

Saturday 05 July 10am – 12:30pm

We are aware how quickly children grow out of their uniform and 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.

Following our recent AGM, we have depleted in numbers due to parents stepping down following their children moving onto further education. If you are interested in joining the committee or could spare some time to support future events please do get in contact via our email. We currently have a vacancy for role of Secretary and require more help at future events to ensure the ongoing support to the school from the PTFA. 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.

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

Umbrellas

Parent Support Group
Spring Term 2025

Would you like to connect with
other local parent carers?

If you are a parent or carer of a child or
young person with special educational
needs and disabilities in West Sussex, please
join us at one of our local support groups or
from the comfort of your own home.



Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
Adur East Family Hub (Shoreham)
14th Jan / 4th Feb / 4th Mar / 1st Apr

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)
22nd Jan / 12th Feb / 12th Mar / 2nd Apr

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
Durrington Community Centre
21st Jan / 11th Feb / 18th Mar

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
Horsham Family Hub
15th Jan / 26th Feb / 19th Mar

Chichester Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
Donnington Parish Hall
30th Jan / 27th Feb / 27th Mar

Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am
The Cherry Tree Centre
28th Jan / 25th Feb / 25th Mar

If you would like more information about our
Umbrellas Support Group or would like the
link to join Umbrellas online, please contact
the outreach team.

Email:
outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

16th Jan	7.30 pm - 9 pm
6th Feb	7.30 pm - 9 pm
13th Mar	7.30 pm - 9 pm
3rd Apr	7.30 pm - 9 pm

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 24 February	Term 4 starts
Thursday 27 February	Y11 Virtual PCE
Wednesday 05 March	Y9 Td/IPV & MenACWY vaccinations
Thursday 13 March	Y10 Parents Virtual Apprenticeship Information Evening
Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 March	School Production 'Legally Blonde'
Tuesday 01 April	Y9 Individual Photographs
Thursday 03 April	Y7 PCE
Friday 04 April	End of Term
Tuesday 22 April	Term 5 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

Term Dates for 2025-2026 will appear on our website as soon as they are decided

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 Studybugs 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