



The Burgess Hill Academy

# Community Newsletter

Term 5 : April – May 2025

# Message from The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some of the key highlights and developments from across the school community.

## **Year 11 – GCSE Exams in Full Swing**

Our Year 11 students are now well underway with their GCSE examinations. We are incredibly proud of the commitment and determination they have shown throughout this crucial period. Staff continue to support pupils with additional revision sessions and wellbeing check-ins; a special thank you to those parents who have given such positive feedback – it is really appreciated!

We wish our students every success as they complete their final papers and look forward to celebrating their hard work at the school prom in June.

## **Year 10 – Work Experience Week**

Year 10 students recently completed their work experience placements, gaining invaluable insights into the world of work. Feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the students' maturity, punctuality, and enthusiasm. Thank you to all families and businesses who supported this important programme.

## **KS3 – Summer Exams Completed**

Students in Years 7 to 9 have now completed their first set of formal assessments. These exams help us monitor academic progress and identify areas for development. We are impressed by the focused attitude students displayed throughout the assessment period.

## **Celebrating Progress – Attendance & Behaviour**

We are pleased to report a continued improvement in attendance figures across all year groups. Your support in ensuring that students attend regularly and punctually is greatly appreciated.

In response to our most recent Ofsted report, we have also taken significant steps to improve behaviour across the school. I am delighted to share that suspensions have seen a notable reduction compared to this time last year – a testament to our staff's hard work and our students' positive response.

## **Commemorating VE Day**

This term we marked VE Day with assemblies and participation in the town events that helped students reflect on the importance of peace and resilience. It was wonderful to see so many students engaged in learning about this pivotal moment in history.

## **Educational Visits – Brighton & Normandy**

Educational visits this term have included a Photography field trip to Brighton and a culturally enriching residential visit to Normandy. These experiences provided fantastic opportunities for students to develop independence and teamwork skills. We received a very lovely comment from a member of the public travelling on the ferry back from France, who was following the FA Cup Final on her phone. Sadly, her phone died before the game had finished.....

*Around half an hour later the same two young men came to find me to tell me the final score 😊  
What an absolute legend!! They chatted for a bit longer and told me about their trip before saying  
goodbye. What two absolute lovely young men, polite, courteous, and so lovely to go out of their way  
to seek me out.*

Our students continued to impress:

*The bus drivers specifically asked us to let our headteacher know how brilliant the children were. They  
were really impressed by their behaviour on the coach, which was good to hear!*

Well done to everyone for presenting yourselves and the school in such a positive way – thank you!

### **Forest School – A Continuing Success**

Our Forest School programme continues to thrive, with students regularly engaging in outdoor learning that supports their personal development, resilience, and wellbeing. Cooking over a fire, and creating craft items from wood are having a noticeable impact on student engagement, attendance and confidence.

### **Online Safety – A Reminder About Social Media**

We ask all parents and carers to remain vigilant about their child's use of social media. As referenced in Mr. Griffith's recent letter, we have seen a rise in concerns linked to inappropriate online behaviour outside of school hours. Please take time to read his guidance and speak with your child about safe and respectful online conduct.

### **Parental Conduct on School Premises**

Finally, a reminder that all visitors to the school – including parents and carers – are expected to behave respectfully towards staff and follow our code of conduct. We are committed to maintaining a safe and positive environment for our pupils and staff, and your cooperation is essential in achieving this.

We hope all our students and families have a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final half-term of the academic year.

Kind regards,

**Karen Clinton**

**Principal**

# Life at Our Academy

## Plaza Uno

On Wednesday the 14th and Thursday the 15th May, Year 8 Spanish students went on a trip to Plaza Uno, a tapas restaurant in town. At the restaurant the staff were very nice and friendly. For starter, they gave us bread and shortly after they came and asked us what drinks we would like. To start us off they brought out calamari which is squid. After, they brought out a tortilla which is an omelette with egg and potatoes. They also served arroz (rice), carne (meat) and much more. The drinks they had to offer were Coca Cola, zumo de naranja (orange juice), limonada (lemonade) and agua (water). Everyone's pronunciation for ordering their drinks was amazing. Everyone was laughing and they all commented on how great the service was. Everyone had a great time.

*Aimee (Year 8)*



## Numeracy Week

On Wednesday 21st May, we celebrated *National Numeracy Day* - a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of number confidence and financial literacy. This year's theme was **Money**, and we packed the week with informative activities to help students better understand how numeracy plays a role in everyday life.

All students have received an **assembly on budgeting and bank cards**, giving students a valuable insight into how to manage money responsibly - an essential life skill.

Throughout the week, students in Key Stage 3 have taken part in **finance-focused lessons**, exploring topics such as incomes, expenditures, saving, spending, and how to make smart financial choices.

One of the most exciting events has been our **Staff vs Students Times Tables Rock Stars Challenge**.

At the time of writing, the **students are currently in the lead**, but teachers Mr Ferrier, Mrs Lake, and Mr Chapman are putting up a strong fight - watch this space!

Students in Years 7 and 8 also have the chance to take part in the national **"Number Heroes" competition**, where they're encouraged to think about how they might use numbers in their future careers. The winning entry will earn a **£50 voucher for the student** and **£1000 worth of resources for the school** - a fantastic opportunity to get creative and show off their number skills!

Parents and carers can get involved too by visiting the official National Numeracy website: [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk), where you can take the **Numeracy Challenge** yourself and find helpful resources to support your child's learning at home.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and made National Numeracy Day a success - we're proud to be a school that celebrates the power of numbers!

## Sports News

With the arrival of summer, the PE Department has been busy delivering a range of exciting activities including Tennis, Athletics, Cricket, Rounders, and Volleyball.

Clubs have been well attended throughout the week:

- **Monday** – Cricket and Rounders
- **Wednesday** – Athletics
- **Thursday** – Tennis

Year 10 students recently represented the school with pride at the Mid Sussex Athletics Trials held at K2. Special recognition goes to **Evie**, who placed **3rd** in the Intermediate Girls' 200m, and **Dylan**, who finished **5th** in the 800m.

Looking ahead, Year 7 and 8 pupils are excited about the upcoming Year 7 athletics event hosted by TBHA, which will take place on the first Tuesday after half term and welcomes schools from across the local area.

## Bushcraft



Earlier this term, a group of Year 8 students took part in an unforgettable Bushcraft trip, spending two days immersed in nature and learning valuable outdoor skills. Under clear skies and warm sunshine, pupils built dens, cooked on open fires, learned fire-lighting and knife skills, and enjoyed team games in the evenings. Nights were spent camping in traditional bell tents beneath the stars.

The pupils were a credit to TBHA throughout, showing enthusiasm, resilience, and excellent teamwork. It was a fantastic opportunity to step away from the classroom and engage with the natural world, building confidence and independence along the way. Well done and thank you to all involved!

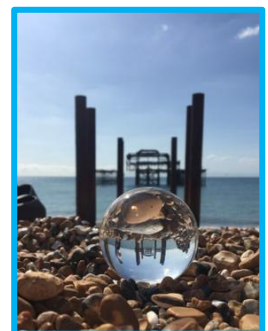


## Year 10 Photography

On Thursday 15th May seventy-one GCSE Photography students travelled by train to spend the day in Brighton, carrying out a photoshoot for their Architecture project. Divided into 6 groups they visited the i360, the West Pier, The Upside Down house, The Palace Pier, The Royal Pavilion and gardens, the North Laine and many more places in between.

There were many moments that made the trip memorable and we are looking forward to seeing the individual work that blossoms from the photoshoots.

Students were very enthusiastic and a special mention must go to Chloe and Harry who took over 1000 photos each.



## F24 Progress

This term has been a busy one in the F24 'garage' (well, T3!), the car is coming on well and now has working brakes, a fully fitted rear axle assembly, and the motor is also fitted and running smoothly (but not yet wired in, so we can't drive it just yet). We have also made the templates for the 2mm aluminium sheet that will go on the sides of the car and hope to get a local engineering firm to cut these for us early next term.



Six members of the team also took the car to the Burgess Hill Means Business Exhibition last week, which was held at the King's Centre. It was an excellent opportunity for the team to say a big 'thank you' to our sponsors as well as trying to find some new ones (we think we have found a company who will wrap the car for us when it is finished to make it look awesome - watch this space for updates!).



The six team representatives did a wonderful job of explaining the project and were fantastic representatives of the school as a whole - even though the whole experience was well outside their sphere of experience and comfort zone. A huge well done to all involved in the car this term.

The F24 Team sponsors are currently: Sussex Tech Support, CJ Founds Associates, Edwards Vacuum, Certa and Turbine Tools - Our huge thanks to all of them

## Success in the Biology Challenge

We are incredibly proud to announce that a number of our students have achieved **medal awards** in this year's **Biology Challenge**, a prestigious national competition run by the Royal Society of Biology. The competition is designed to test students' knowledge and understanding of biology through a series of thought-provoking questions covering curriculum content, real-world applications, and current scientific developments. It's a fantastic opportunity for young biologists to stretch their learning and explore their passion for the subject beyond the classroom.

This year, our Year 10 Triple Science class students rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and determination, and we are delighted to celebrate the following successes:



- 🥈 **Silver Medal** – Awarded to Josh F
- 🥉 **Bronze Medal** – Awarded to Kiera H, Oscar G, Satyashree K, Freya M, Holly S, Charlie M

A huge **congratulations** to all students who took part, especially those who achieved medal awards – this is a fantastic recognition of your curiosity, hard work, and scientific thinking.



## Year 8 & 9 French Residential

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May we travelled to Boulogne in France. We did multiple fun activities starting with a town visit. We saw some very pretty views, and it was nice and warm in the sun. We walked down a street with shops and many of us bought an ice cream! After that, we headed to the Nausicaa SeaLife centre. There were a lot of things to look at including jellyfish, sharks, stingrays and a turtle. It was very cool, and we all enjoyed it a lot. Next to Nausicaa there was a lovely beach. The sand was highly popular as we don't get it around here! By this time, it was early evening, so we headed to our accommodation. After dinner we got the opportunity to play pétanque.



The next day, we had an early start and after packing everything up we drove down to Le Touquet market which was an amazing experience. It was a great opportunity to practice our French and there were plenty of things to buy. An hour later, we went down to Beussent Lachelle chocolate factory. We got to see the machines they use as well as learn how they make it. We even got to try some, and it was delicious! There was also plenty of chocolate to choose from in the shop.

The last thing we did was to visit a snail farm. We learned lots of cool facts about snails and how they farm them. We could hold some snails and even put them on our face, as their mucus is good for your skin! Lastly, we could eat some snails if we wanted to. They came in 3 different sauces and most people tried and liked them.

It was a brilliant trip, and everyone had a very good time!

*Pippa & Poppy, Year 8*





It has been a busy term for Year 10 students as they embarked on a week of work experience. Companies such as Edwards Vacuum, Rose Media Group, Abcom, Acora, i2i Media, Ariel Theatre Company, Extech Cloud, American Express, Leap Environmental and Gatwick Airport all supported our programme providing a valuable first opportunity for students to investigate the working world. We received some amazing feedback from employers with comments such as;

**“Your students conducted themselves very maturely throughout their placement with us and they were a pleasure to have in with us supporting our pre-school children and team”**

**“It was a pleasure having such a bright and curious mind join us”**

**“To our students... thank you. You brought energy, curiosity and a fresh perspective, reminding us Gen Z is the one to watch”**

Well done to all our Year 10 students who participated in a work experience programme, the skills that you have learnt will help you as you navigate college applications, interviews and the job application process. Several students received offers of part-time work and future apprenticeships.

There were also a small number of Year 10 students who were in school during work experience week. However, the work-related learning continued with visits from; The Army with a fantastic session on careers in the Army followed by team building exercises on the field, a mock assessment centre activity from Thales which was delivered by one of our alumni, Connor Murphy, a plumbing workshop from Steve Willis Training, a presentation on personal finance from Barclays Bank, a session on Making an Impact from an alumna, Ben McLaren of KPMG. In addition to these, we were delighted to welcome representatives from The Rotary Club who conducted mock interviews with students. We finished the week with sessions of Forest School, kindly delivered by our fantastic Forest School teacher, Miss Dewey!





One of the teams of Year 8 students taking part in the BHAFC Social Enterprise Challenge were chosen to represent BHAFC at the Premier League Inspires Event at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The project for this event was themed around raising awareness of gender equality and our team chose to create a video about gender bias in football. This was filmed just before the Easter holidays and students were excited to have the opportunity to display their project. There were student teams representing 41 Football teams from all over England. During the day, teams had the opportunity to visit other stands and see their projects, hear from ex-England player – Izzy Christensen about the barriers she has faced in her football career and most excitingly, have a tour of Wembley stadium including the changing rooms.

"Overall the trip to Wembley Stadium was one of the greatest and I will definitely not forget it or the lessons taught by it!" – *Yaqub*.



Despite being one of the youngest teams taking part (the age range was Yr 8-11), our students were excellent representatives of the academy, speaking to the press, discussing their project with other teams with great maturity and developing a greater understanding of the impact of gender bias. I was very proud to work with such amazing young people!

Ahead of exams next month, Year 10 students looked at how to answer the long exam/essay question in the final session of 4 in the Study Skills programme with the University of Brighton. During these sessions, we have considered various ways of revising, understanding command words and what an exam question is asking and how to create a revision timetable. The Year 10 exam results will be required by colleges during interviews in the Autumn term as a means of assessing student's abilities. These sessions have provided students with key skills to achieve their potential in these exams.

Ten Year 8 girls took part in a event run by Edwards Vacuum aimed at increasing female engagement in STEM careers. Students took part in a carousel of activities; the bell jar experiment, a site tour, a practical activity with a vacuum pump, an experiment with vacuum and ping pong balls and most excitingly, a

chance to understand how AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality) are used to support technicians at Edwards Vacuum. The girls were enthusiastic, engaged and with lots of fantastic questions for the business volunteers. They were particularly impressed with the business networking lunch supplied by the company! Some definite future engineers in the making.



Finally, we end the term with a series of Aspiration workshops for selected Year 8 students with our career's advisor, Carl from Elev8Careers, looking at self-belief and understanding our skills and barriers to learning.

## News and Celebrations

### VE Day Remembrance

We are incredibly proud of our two Year 9 students who represented our school at the VE Day Remembrance Service in town on Thursday, 8th May. A special thank you to James, who laid a wreath at the War Memorial on our behalf - a meaningful gesture to honour those who served and sacrificed. Lest we forget.



### LAMDA

Several of our students have taken their LAMDA exams recently. LAMDA Acting exams are performance-based qualifications offered by the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA). They assess a student's ability to perform and understand dramatic texts, with a focus on interpretation, technique, and knowledge of performance theory.

Students have to prepare 2 duologues which must be memorised and performed from published plays. As part of the exams, they must answer questions about the context of the play(s), the character's objectives and emotions, performance choices (voice, movement, pace, etc.) and an understanding of dramatic techniques. They must display skills which showcase voice modulation, diction, and projection, use of space and physicality and character development and emotional connection.

We are pleased to share that our students achieved some fantastic results!

<b>Year 7</b>	Olivia R	78 Merit
	Grace B	81 Distinction
<b>Year 9</b>	Erin P	84 Distinction
<b>Year 10</b>	Charlotte B	80 Distinction
	Clara L	85 Distinction

### Student Achievement



Congratulations to Charlie P (Year 10) who is the new U17 Race walking National Champion for 2025!



# Academy Community Together (ACT)

## PTFA News

The PTFA have depleted in numbers recently due to parents stepping down following their children moving onto further education and are looking for new members / helpers. 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](mailto:act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk)

Our next second-hand uniform sale will be on **Saturday 05 July 10am – 12:30pm** and we are looking for donations of uniform that your children have grown out of. We are aware of the cost of new uniform and our second-hand sales are proving to be very successful and raised over £3000 last year.

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](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>

## Volunteers Needed



# Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers aged 14+ to help us run the Summer Reading Challenge in libraries:



- Help families sign up online to take part.
- Listen to children talk about books they have read.
- Hand out rewards and encourage children to keep reading.

If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you!  
Find out more and apply online at  
[arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src](https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src)



<https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk>



# Dates and Useful Information

## Dates

### Monday 02 June

Tuesday 03 June

Thursday 19 July

Friday 20 June

Tuesday 24 June

Monday 30 June

Tuesday 01 July

Wednesday 02 July

Thursday 03 July

Friday 04 July

Monday 07 July

Wednesday 09 – Friday 11 July

Monday 14 July

Thursday 17 July

**Friday 18 July**

### Term 6 starts

Year 8 HPV vaccinations

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Year 11 Leavers Prom

Year 9 History Trip to Imperial War Museum

Year 9 History Trip to Imperial War Museum

Year 9 Science Trip to Wakehurst

Year 6 Parents Information Evening

Year 6 Transition Day

Summer Sounds Concert

Year 10 Sports Studies Trip to Ardingly

Year 10 Sports Studies Trip to Ardingly

Year 7 Camp

Sports Day

Year 7 – Year 10 Celebration Evening

**End of Term**

## 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

## Academic Year 2025-2026

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Starts: Wednesday 03 September 2025</b> <b>Ends: Friday 24 October 2025</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Starts: Monday 03 November 2025</b> <b>Ends: Friday 19 December 2025</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Starts: Monday 05 January 2026</b> <b>Ends: Friday 13 February 2026</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Starts: Monday 23 February 2026</b> <b>Ends: Friday 27 March 2026</b>
<b>Term 5</b>	<b>Starts: Monday 13 April 2026</b> <b>Ends: Friday 22 May 2026</b>
<b>Term 6</b>	<b>Starts: Monday 01 June 2026</b> <b>Ends: Wednesday 22 July 2026</b>

***Inset Dates for 2025-2026 to be confirmed***

## 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 Studybugs app on your mobile by 8.30am 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)