



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 1 : Sept – Oct 2025

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of this year's newsletters.

It has been an incredibly successful start to the school year and we are so proud of the strong start that our children have made. From the very first day, when we welcomed our new Year 7s, the atmosphere has been positive and focused. Our students have settled in quickly, adapting well to school routines and working hard both in and outside of the classroom.

The introduction of DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time every morning has been a resounding success. Thank you for ensuring that your child has a reading book with them; it has made the start to the school day calm and the atmosphere of quiet reading which pervades the school is compelling.

Alongside the hive of activity inside the classroom, the school has seen an unprecedented number of extra-curricular activities taking place. We know, from our own experiences, that out-of-school visits stay with us forever and we are immensely proud of the students who have participated in our trips to Bletchley Park, Spain, the Battlefields, the Tate Modern gallery, to name but a few. On top of this, growing numbers of children have taken part in after-school sport with some excellent performances. We are hoping to expand the offer of after-school activities with the aim of everyone being able to join a club or activity. Please do encourage your child to try something new.

Our Open Evening for the Year 6 children in Burgess Hill involved students from all year groups showcasing the school. We have recently launched a new site on both Facebook and Instagram where you'll see a lovely montage video of moments from the evening. Please do give the clip a 'like' – it really helps to promote all the positive work from our students.

I would like to share the news that our school has climbed considerably in the school rankings in West Sussex. The Department for Education published the GCSE exam information this week where you can compare schools within the county. Thanks to extraordinary levels of commitment and hard work from our teachers, support staff, parents and, most importantly, our year 11 students, the numbers of children gaining a Level 4 and a Level 5 in both English and Maths increased by 10%. We are now in position 17 out of the 50 secondary schools in West Sussex, sitting above schools such as The Weald, Sackville and Imberhorne. This is a significant upturn for the school and a moment for celebration and congratulation. Our current Year 11 students are determined to be even more successful and have fully engaged in our Period 6 revision strategy, earning themselves 'Skip the Lunch Queue' passes as a reward. We wish them all the very best for their mock examinations in November.

Finally, as we move into the late Autumn and Winter months, can I ask that students are prepared for the sudden changes of weather? We want to make sure that our children remain healthy and are able to attend well; a waterproof coat and hood makes all the difference when the rain decides to make an appearance!

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,

Karen Clinton, Principal

Life at Our Academy

Spanish & Geography Trip



Forty-one year 11 students left Burgess Hill on Monday 22nd September bound for an action-packed adventure.

After a very early 6am flight from Gatwick, we travelled by coach from Malaga to Granada. The landscape was noticeably different from West Sussex – dry and arid with field upon field of olive groves.

Arriving in the Moorish city of Granada was a feast for the eyes. After dropping off our luggage in a Moroccan, Riad-style hostel, we spent our afternoon navigating an orienteering quiz. This involved a range of challenges and certainly got everyone using their Spanish and Geography skills. After dinner in a local restaurant, we returned to the hostel, tired, but happy.

Day 2 was equally full. We walked up a pretty steep hill to the beautiful gardens of the Alhambra and spent some time admiring the view and taking many photos. We then headed back through the old town and enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral. Our students had some free time to wander the markets, eat tapas and empanadas and then practice more of their language skills. In the afternoon, we walked to the Museo de la Cuevas on the outskirts of the town, where generations of traveller communities have lived for many years. On the way back into the centre, ice-creams were a welcome relief from the heat. After a buffet dinner in an 'each as much as you can' style restaurant, we were entertained by a group of flamenco dancers and musicians. A few of us 'enjoyed a shower' from the lead male dancer's sweaty hair!

Day 3 was our last day and we were keen to make the most of everything. Mr. Adam led the way to the Science Museum. There was something for everyone here, from the Planetarium to the Biozone to the interactive physics activities. After such a busy 3 days, sitting on the coach back to Malaga allowed us all to rest our weary limbs.

Our students were absolutely fantastic throughout and we had some super feedback:

'I never knew Spain looked like this – it feels like the real Spain.'

'It's the best trip I have ever been on.'

'My friends and I (plus a cat) are going to live here for a year when we finish our A Levels – it's so beautiful.'

'I got goosebumps when I saw the inside of the cathedral – it's the most amazing thing I have ever seen.'

'Everything about it has been awesome – I loved all the walking because we got to see so much.'

'The Science park was just the best.'

Many thanks to Ms. Cole, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Bashford and Mr. Adam for all their help.

(Mrs Clinton)

Art Trip



Year 11 Fine Art students went to the Tate Modern on 18th September.

They spent the day in the galleries answering questions and searching for their favourite pieces. Since they have returned to school they are busy creating sketchbook pages about their trip.



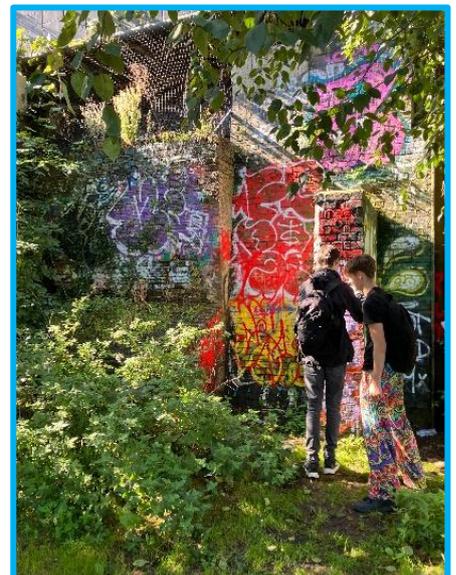
Geography Trip

At the end of September, over 90 of our Year 11 GCSE Geography students spent the day in Brighton completing their physical and human geography fieldwork. The day began in the New England Quarter, where students investigated the success of the area's regeneration, carrying out surveys and observations to collect valuable primary data. In the afternoon, they headed to Brighton Beach to study coastal processes, measuring features and assessing evidence of erosion, transportation and deposition to determine the dominant coastal processes at work.

Students worked with great focus and enthusiasm throughout the day, demonstrating excellent teamwork and data collection skills and even found time to practise their photography skills, capturing some artistic shots of Brighton throughout the day!



Well done to all involved for representing the school so positively and for putting their classroom learning into action in such an engaging, hands-on way.



Battlefields Trip

In September, fifty of our Year 11 GCSE History students travelled to France and Belgium on a three-day residential to visit the WW1 Battlefields.

After a very early start and a trip on the Euro Tunnel students arrived in France and travelled to the Somme Battlefield. Students were able to visit the Lochnagar Crater, the Thiepval Monument to the missing and the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial where students had the opportunity to walk through the trench system and look into No Mans Land.



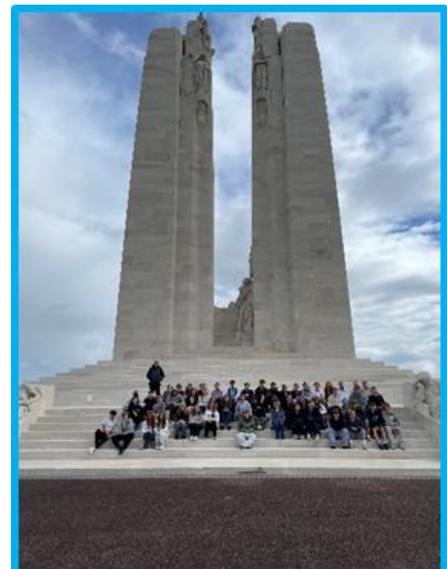
The following day after a stay at the hostel in Langemark students had the opportunity to visit the town of Ypres in Belgium. Students visited the Cloth Hall Museum which tells the story of the people of Ypres before and during the destruction of Ypres by artillery fire during WW1. After some Belgian chocolate shopping and lunch, students visited Tyne Cot Memorial which is one of the largest Commonwealth Cemeteries in the world. Students were visibly moved by the numbers of young soldiers buried there and spent some time completing a survey to find out the age, rank and battalion of each soldier. Students then went to visit the German

Langemark cemetery so that they were also able to pay their respects to the German soldiers who also lost their lives in the Ypres region. Students were shocked by the contrast in the two cemeteries and the number of German soldiers buried there. After dinner at the hostel students set out again to see the last post ceremony which is held at 8.00pm every day at the Menin Gate.

On our final day students travelled to Vimy Ridge where they had the opportunity again to walk through the trenches and explore the underground tunnels where soldiers prepared for battle in 1917. It was a sobering experience for students to imagine soldiers living in the cold and dark tunnels preparing for a battle where so many would lose their lives.

The students conduct and behaviour on the trip was outstanding. They were a credit to their parents, their school and their community. It was a privilege to educate and spend time with this group of young people during this residential visit.

(Mrs Preston)



Bletchley Park Maths Trip

On the 15th and 16th September I had the pleasure of taking twenty Year 10 students on an overnight residential trip to Bletchley Park and Central London.



On arrival at Bletchley Park we were given a very informative tour of the Park, with our guide highlighting how life was and the stories behind the people and work that went on there and how it was all cloaked in secrecy. After a workshop looking at Personal Cyber Security, we explored the original huts, which included looking at the Enigma and Bombe machines and how the work on codebreaking shortened the war. After travelling into central London we stopped off at an Italian restaurant for our evening meal, before heading to our hotel.

On the Tuesday, after a full English breakfast, we set off for the British Museum where students were free to explore, with many heading for the Egyptian displays. From here we walked towards the London Eye, stopping off for a short break at Covent Garden, where students had the opportunity to explore the market.

After lunch on the banks of the River Thames, we had a wonderful trip on the London Eye, giving fantastic views over London. We finished the trip off with a visit to the Science Museum, starting off at the Winton Gallery, focussing on Mathematics through the ages. Many of the students who are studying History went to the Wellcome Gallery, which houses one of the most significant medical collections in the world.



This was a very busy, non-stop trip. The students represented the Academy to the highest level and all arrived home ready for a good night's sleep!

(Mr Ferrier)



Sports Studies Trip

This term the long-awaited Sport Studies trips to Ardingly Reservoir took place, having been rescheduled from the Summer. The Y11 students were fantastic and all represented the school brilliantly. This trip was vital for their Sport Studies coursework and Outdoor Adventurous module, but it was wonderful seeing everyone having such a great time, especially when falling into the cold water!
(Mrs Rayland)



Sports News

GIRLS

Football

The U16 football teams have successfully made it through the first couple of rounds of both the National Cup and the County Cup with confident wins over Downlands. We face Vardean and Bohunt in the next rounds at home which will take place after half-term.

Goal Scorers:

Vs Downlands (County Cup): Grace T x 3 and Evie S x 2. POM Grace T

Vs Downlands (National Cup): Evie S x 3 and Grace T. POM Evie S

The Y7 football team had their first game at the start of October. We travelled to Angmering for the first round of the County Cup. Unfortunately, the opposition were very good and we didn't come away victorious but all the girls played exceptionally well. POM Charlotte R, who is also our captain!

The Y7 and U14 football leagues will be starting after half-term with matches all the way through the year until March.



Netball

October saw the start of the Year 10 netball league, played over three consecutive weeks. Although the Year 10s didn't finish in the top four, they achieved a brilliant 15–3 win against Bohunt. It's fantastic to see all their hard work from the past three years paying off. Congratulations to Isabella, who was voted the opposition player of the league!



BOYS



Our school boys' football teams have had a fantastic start to the season, showing great commitment and determination across all year groups.

The Year 7s have played four games, demonstrating excellent effort and teamwork in every match.

The Year 8s have completed all their district league fixtures and currently sit top of the table, with Charlie K leading the way as the team's top goal scorer. Their most impressive performance came in a 10–2 victory over Warden Park. They also competed in the County Cup, narrowly losing on penalties to Tambridge House after extra time, showing tremendous fighting spirit throughout.

The Year 9s have played two games so far, with more exciting fixtures to come after half term.

Meanwhile, the Year 11s have played two district league games, winning one and losing one, and secured an excellent 4–1 win over Imberhorne in the county cup to progress to the next round.

Careers



The main focus for careers this term has been helping our Year 11 students to begin thinking about life after the Academy. Our independent careers adviser, Christine Joslin from Elev8Careers, has been meeting our Year 11 students and helping them to understand the Post 16 pathways available to them. We have held an assembly explaining all the different routes and pathways. Year 11 students, parents and carers attended a Post 16 Information Evening on Thursday 2nd October where they received important information regarding the processes involved and then had the opportunity to speak to over 25 exhibitors from local further education colleges, sixth forms, independent schools and apprenticeship providers, as well as member of the Armed Forces and the Royal Navy.

In order to help students prepare for their college interviews, we held our first ever mock interview sessions for every Year 11 student. We were delighted to welcome 35 volunteers from local businesses on the Thursday morning and each person interviewed 5 students over the course of two hours using a set of questions which students had seen and had a chance to prepare for. Every student who was interviewed received a personalised feedback sheet. I've received some amazing comments from the volunteers and share some below;



"The students were great, really impressive and presented themselves well. I'd hire any of them!"

"All the pupils that I met were amazing, they were all polite, confident and engaged with the interviews. It was a pleasure to meet them"

"From the students I met this morning it certainly is a school to be proud of."

"Whilst nervous at first, we soon got into a good conversation focusing on their passions, values and strengths they would bring to future employment"

"I met thoughtful, articulate, curious young people who already understand collaboration, problem-solving and resilience far better than we often give them credit for"



On Friday morning, we welcomed ten volunteers from Octopus Energy who run a mock interview programme. Students had been encouraged to complete a little research on the company and complete a short form on their interests so that the mock interview could be more specifically structured. These sessions were more challenging, asking students to think about a time when they displayed specific skills. Detailed feedback to each student on these interviews will be provided after half term, however a few general comments from the volunteers are below;

"It was brilliant to be a part of this event. I was blown away by the confidence of the students and how much effort they had put in behind the scenes to be prepared for our questions. "

"You've got a great bunch of students and it was great to see how much work and preparation they'd put into it. They've all got very bright future's ahead of them!"

We are so grateful to all the volunteers over the course of the two days. Our Year 11 students found the session to be incredibly helpful and they are feeling much more prepared for college interviews.

Work experience is on Year 10 students mind as we launched our Year 10 work experience week which will take place during week commencing 18th May. We were delighted to see so many parents and carers attend our virtual information evening and an assembly was subsequently given to students to explain the processes involved. We are delighted to see that there are a number of Year 10 students who have already registered their placement and had approval.

We would also like to put out an appeal to any parents who feel that their company would be able to offer a work experience placement to our Year 10 students. If there are any parents who would like further information regarding offering a work experience placement, please do contact Mrs Dorgan at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk.

Year 9 students have been introduced to the Young Green Briton Challenge through their Geography lessons at the beginning of this term and subsequent tutorial sessions. We will be taking part in a special morning next term where the whole of Year 9 will be set the formal challenge which is based on an enterprise activity. More details on this next term!

Year 10 Catering and Hospitality students were delighted to welcome chefs from The Prept Foundation into lessons this term. The chefs held a food tasting session and then taught students how to make vegetable ramen. The Prept Foundation is a charity that supports secondary schools in delivering enhanced food education, ensuring students can gain essential life skills. Through immersive learning experiences, we inspire young people to get cooking, better understand food, and shape career pathways into a diverse world of hospitality. All food used in these sessions is provided by The Prept Foundation. We are also delighted to be welcoming the chefs back into the academy to work with our Year 7 and 8 students over the course of this year.



Year 7 students were introduced to our careers programme with a session of the University Game with the University of Brighton Outreach team. In tutor groups, students played this engaging and informative board game based around university life supported by student ambassadors. There were really great questions being asked, lots of engagement and huge competitiveness as students worked their way around the board - it truly was a pleasure to spend time with Year 7!



10 of our Year 8 students attended the launch event for the BHAFC Social Enterprise Challenge on the 8th October at the AMEX Stadium. As well as receiving a tour of the stadium, our students split into two teams and started to work on the challenge to think about a social enterprise fund raising activity raising awareness for one of the aspects of the BHAFC Foundation. This is the first event in a series of three and it was fantastic to see the engagement from the students. We look forward to the next event next term.



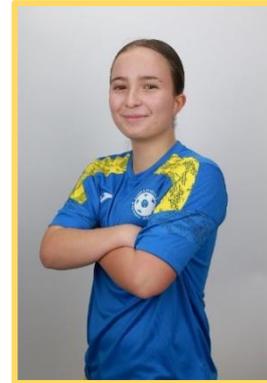
Finally, every Year 10 student took part in a session of Study Skills with the University of Brighton Outreach department where we look at barriers to revision, procrastination and looked at how to plan revision. This is the first of four sessions throughout Year 10 aimed at supporting students to prepare for their end of year exams. The second session will take place next term and will look at types of revision and which suits them best.

(Mrs Dorgan)

News and Celebrations

Individual Sports Success

Congratulations to Y11 student Grace who successfully trialed and has made it into the 25/26 Sussex Schools U16 Girls Football team. We are all so proud of you and pleased for you!
Good luck for the season.



Burgess Hill Youth Council



Recently a group from our Student Leadership Team attended the Burgess Hill Town Council meeting, joining local councillors and members of the community.

The Mayor of Burgess Hill, Stuart Condie, spoke about his role and shared some interesting details about the responsibilities involved in running the town. It was fascinating to hear about the range of projects and activities that the council oversees to support local people.

A representative from Burgess Hill Football Club also spoke about the club's community work. They explained how the club helps players of all ages to stay healthy and develop their football skills, while also bringing the community together through sport.

At the next meeting, there'll be an election to choose a new Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, with Zahra, one of our Year 8 students, stepping down from her current position as Mayor.

Students, including ours, were asked again to share their opinions on local sports facilities in Burgess Hill. It's great that young people are being included in these discussions because it shows that the council values our ideas and wants to make improvements that benefit everyone.

I was surprised by everything that goes into planning and maintaining a town like ours, and it made me realise how important community involvement is.

Overall, I really enjoyed attending the meeting because it gave me a better understanding of how Burgess Hill is run and how we, as young people, can have a voice in shaping our town's future.

(Arum, Year 9)

Social Media

You can now follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/TBHSecondaryAcademy>



Academy Community Together (ACT)

PTFA News

Comedy Night

We recently hosted another successful and enjoyable Comedy Night at the academy, hosted by the brilliant Stephen Grant of Funny That! Productions. Thank you to all those attended, we raised £220.



Second hand Uniform

Our second-hand uniform sales still continue to be very popular and are raising great funds for the school, along with helping families with the cost of uniform. Since August, sales have raised £1150 and helped over 70 families. Thank you to everyone who has donated uniform or purchased items so far.

If you're looking for specific uniform pieces or sizes, please get in touch with the PTA at act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk with your request and sizing details.

We're currently looking for more helpers to sort, organise, and sell items at upcoming sales. If you can spare a little time to lend a hand, please contact the PTA at act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

AGM

Please save the date of Wednesday 26 November. We will be holding our Annual General meeting, which is open to all families to attend. It's a great opportunity to come meet the Committee members, hear what we are about and help suggest events going forward. We will be sending out more details after half term.

To keep up to date with events please follow us on Facebook [ACT – TBHA](#)

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 03 November

Monday 03 – Friday 21 November

Tuesday 11 November

Wednesday 12 November

Wednesday 26 November

Thursday 27 November

Friday 28 November

Tuesday 02 December

Thursday 11 December

Friday 19 December

Start of Term2

Year 11 Mocks

Year 8 Onsite Theatre 'A Christmas Carol'

Year 9 Digital Day

Year 7 Book Visit

ASDAN Cinema Trip

Year 12 GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening

Inset Day

Year 10 Onsite Theatre 'Macbeth'

Christmas Sounds

End of Term 2

Academic Year 2025-2026

Term 1

Starts:

Wednesday 03 September 2025

Ends:

Friday 24 October 2025

INSET day:

Wednesday 03 September 2025

Thursday 04 September 2025

Friday 26 September 2025

Term 2

Starts:

Monday 03 November 2025

Ends:

Friday 19 December 2025

INSET day:

Friday 28 November 2025

Term 3

Starts:

Monday 05 January 2026

Ends:

Friday 13 February 2026

Term 4

Starts:

Monday 23 February 2026

Ends:

Friday 27 March 2026

Term 5

Starts:

Monday 13 April 2026

Ends:

Friday 22 May 2026

Term 6

Starts:

Monday 01 June 2026

Ends:

Wednesday 22 July 2026

INSET day:

Monday 06 July 2026

Parent/Carer Information

Contacting the Academy

Telephone Number: **01444 241691**

Email Address: office@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

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>

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 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.

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

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>

Burgess Hill Town Events



HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

27 - 31
OCTOBER

Halloween Trail

Aimed at ages 3-12
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October
No booking required and prize for every entrant!

Family Fun

Aimed at ages 3-18 for families with children with SEND
Monday 27 October - 12:30pm & 2:30pm
The King's Church, 33-35 Victoria Rd RH15 9LR
Booking required in advance from 30 September

Young Carers

Aimed at ages 6-11
Tuesday 28 October - 1pm, 2pm & 3pm
Fairfield Community Centre, Western Rd, RH15 8QN
Booking required by 24 October

Craft Sessions

Aimed at ages 5-12
Wednesday 29 October
The Hub, 77 Church Walk (former Millet unit)
Booking required from 13 October

Witchy Mountain

Wednesday 29 October
Outside 96 Church Walk - Help Point, Burgess Hill
10:30am - 2:30pm
Waiver must be signed on arrival
Weight restriction: climbers must weigh between 3.5 - 18 stone

The above events are FREE and organised by Burgess Hill Town Council
More info & to book visit burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-events/
call 01444 247726, or email Communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk