



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 3 : Jan - Feb 2026

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very wet term, I want to begin by recognising the incredible resilience shown by our students. Despite some truly awful weather, attendance has remained stable and students have continued to arrive each day ready to learn. Their determination and positive attitude have been a real credit to them and to you as families.

This term, we have awarded an impressive **41,935 achievement points** across the school - an average of **44 achievement points per student**. This is a fantastic reflection of the effort, kindness and commitment we see every day in lessons and around the site. We are very proud of what our young people are achieving.

It has also been exciting to broaden our extra-curricular offer. Our new KS3 Steelpan Band has been a great success, culminating in a wonderful end-of-term concert. Similarly, our new KS3 Running Club has gone from strength to strength, with our students proudly representing the Academy at an inter-school cross-country competition this week.

Visitors frequently comment on the calm and purposeful atmosphere at the Academy, and this term has been no exception. Three external visitors have praised the focused working environment across the school, noting how engaged students are in lessons and how respectfully they conduct themselves around the building. We know how important a calm environment is for learning, and we are delighted this is being recognised.

There has also been significant progress across the site. The refurbishment of the T-Block toilets and changing rooms is well underway and will be fully completed over the half-term holidays. At Easter, our library will undergo a complete refurbishment, creating a new computer suite alongside upgraded library facilities. We are extremely grateful to our PTA for their generous offer to fund new blinds for the library space. As part of this exciting development, we will also be replenishing our book stock and hope to launch a 'wedding list' of recommended books, giving parents the opportunity to contribute directly to our students' reading experiences.

This week also saw the meeting of our newly re-formed Local Board. Their role will be instrumental as we continue our journey to raise standards and further improve the experience of life at Burgess Hill Academy. We look forward to working closely with them in the months ahead.

As always, we ask for your continued support in prioritising **100% attendance** wherever possible. Every lesson matters, and strong attendance plays a vital role in academic success and in developing the resilience that will serve our young people so well in later life.

Thank you for your ongoing support this term. I wish all of our students and families a happy, restful and well-deserved Spring break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

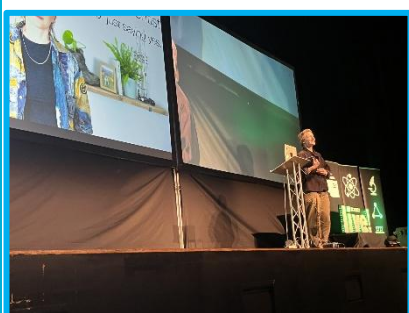
Kind regards,

Karen Clinton,
Principal

Life at Our Academy

GCSE Science Live!

Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring trip to *Science Live!* at the Brighton Dome. The event brought GCSE science topics to life through a series of engaging presentations delivered by well-known scientists and science communicators. Students were able to see real demonstrations linked directly to their curriculum, helping to deepen their understanding of key concepts in biology, chemistry and physics.



Throughout the day, pupils were enthusiastic, curious and a real credit to the school. They particularly enjoyed the interactive elements of the show and the opportunity to see how science is used in real-world research and careers. The trip not only supported their learning in the classroom but also aimed to spark curiosity and confidence in science as a subject. A big thank you to staff and students for making the day such a success.

Mrs D Carter

Maths Challenge

We are delighted to share the fantastic results from this year's UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, a national mathematics competition designed to stretch and inspire high-attaining students.

The challenge focuses on problem solving, logical reasoning, and mathematical thinking, rather than routine classroom methods. It encourages students to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar situations and rewards clear, strategic thinking.

This year, 26 of our students achieved a Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificate, which is a brilliant achievement in such a demanding national competition. We are very proud of the effort, resilience, and enthusiasm they showed.

A special [congratulations](#) goes to Samuel (Year 9) and Christopher (Year 10), who performed exceptionally well and have both been invited to take part in the national follow-up rounds. This places them among the highest-scoring students in the country.

Well done to all students who took part and represented the school so positively.

Mr W Haimes

Rotary Young Musician

On Thursday 29th January, twelve of our exceptionally talented students took part in the Rotary Club Young Musician Competition.

The evening opened with Christopher S, who delivered a punchy and polished performance of "Take Five" on the piano. This was followed by Ollie O, who performed "Happier" - a demanding vocal piece that highlighted impressive control across both chest voice and falsetto.

Eve M then took to the stage with a powerful and emotive rendition of Adele's "When We Were Young", captivating the audience with her expressive vocals. Next, Oliver S performed a Grade 7 bass guitar piece inspired by Stanley Clarke. The judges praised the exceptional level of difficulty and the confidence with which it was executed.

Ben B chose "Dream a Little Dream", with judges commenting on the distinctive and memorable quality of his voice. Wilf R-W delivered a commanding performance of Einaudi's "Experience", demonstrating outstanding musical maturity, precision, and control.

Bringing energy and character to the programme, Clara L gave a lively and engaging Musical Theatre performance of "Second Hand Suit" from The Great Gatsby. Ryan S followed with a flawless rendition of "Take Me to Church", performed with accuracy and emotional depth. Hillary W enchanted the audience with a beautifully delicate and heartfelt performance of Jessie J's "Flashlight".

Lucy L performed a saxophone work by Jacques Ibert, playing with sensitivity and showcasing impressive technical command. Erin P sang the dynamic Musical Theatre number "Watch What Happens" from Newsies and was commended for her confident stage presence and storytelling.

Closing the evening was Kasper, who delivered an intense and accomplished performance of "Toxicity". Despite the complexity of the piece, he remained completely composed - even disguising the moment he dropped and swiftly replaced two drumsticks mid-performance!

The organisers commented that the standard this year was the highest they have heard since the competition began. Eve received a Highly Commended certificate, Ben was awarded Outstanding Vocalist, and Wilf received the award for Outstanding Musician.

Mrs H Freaan



United by Sound - Steelband



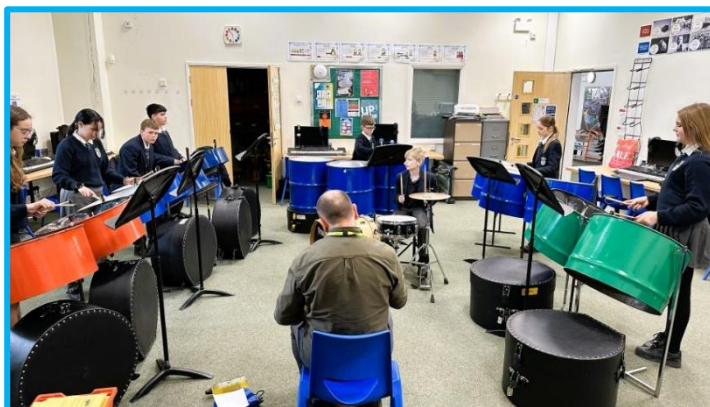
Over the past six weeks in Term 6, selected pupils from Year 7 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in United by Sound, a vibrant steelpan band enrichment led by Lee Nelson and Hannah Frea. From the very first session, the project created a positive, inclusive atmosphere where pupils could express themselves, try something new, and make music together.

Throughout the programme, pupils have developed a wide range of musical skills, including keeping a steady pulse, understanding rhythm and structure, learning how different parts fit together in an ensemble, and performing with accuracy and confidence. They have explored listening skills in depth, learning how to balance their own playing with others and respond to musical cues as a group.

Alongside this, the project has strongly supported life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, resilience, and self-discipline. Pupils have shown fantastic focus, supported one another, and grown in confidence as they mastered new techniques and worked towards shared musical goals.

United by Sound has been an uplifting and inspiring experience, leaving pupils with new skills, positive memories, and a real sense of achievement through music.

Please head over to our Facebook page to hear how they got on. We are looking forward to repeating the programme with Year 8!



Mrs H Frea

Blood Brothers Trip

This week, students from years 8-11 have visited the Theatre Royal, Brighton to watch the opening night of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. The performance was both powerful and emotional. The story of twin brothers, Mickey and Eddie, separated at birth highlights themes of class, fate and inequality.

The acting was outstanding, especially the performances of Mickey and Mrs Johnstone, who showed strong emotion throughout. The songs helped tell the story effectively, particularly "Tell Me It's Not True", which had a big impact on the audience. The narrator created tension and reminded us of the tragic ending.

The standing ovation at the end was testament to the quality of the performance.



Mrs Frea & Ms Agius

School Swap Event

Our Student Leadership Team recently organised the "New Year, New Gear" Swap Event, giving students the opportunity to donate and exchange pre-loved clothes, books, stationery and small accessories. The event promoted sustainability by encouraging the reuse of good-quality items while supporting families within our school community. Students helped to organise, set up and run the event, demonstrating excellent teamwork and leadership. The swap was well supported and highlighted our school's commitment to environmental responsibility, community spirit and student voice.



Sports News

Girls Football

The Y7 girls had a couple of matches this term against Warden Park and Downlands in the league. They did not come out victorious but showed great determination and effort. They narrowly lost to WP with a score line of 3-2. Well done to Emma M who was player of the match. They lost 3-1 to Downlands and well done to Charlotte R who got player of the match.

Cross-Country

Students from years 8-11 took part in the Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships at the start of this month. All students showed great ambition and courage competing in some very windy conditions. Congratulations to Charlie P (Y11) who was the top finisher across all age groups for TBHA. Y7 and Y8 will have a Cross-Country event after half term and on the penultimate day of school this term.

Girls Cricket

The U15 indoor girls cricket team competed in the Sussex school qualifiers this term. They played exceptionally well with some very close fought games. Unfortunately, we do not progress to the next round but we wish Warden Park good luck for the county finals next month.



Author Visit

The Burgess Hill Academy is proud to be part of the LitUP project, led by Bloomsbury Publishing and the National Literacy Trust. LitUP aims to nurture and strengthen a lifelong love of reading, supporting students as they progress from primary school to secondary school and beyond.

Our Year 7 students have been selected as the first secondary cohort to take part in this initiative, which is already well established in primary schools across Hastings. As part of the project, three author visits will take place during the academic year, giving students the opportunity to listen to author presentations and ask questions about their work.



This term Iszi Lawrence, who writes historical fiction, visited the academy to talk about her newest book, *The Domesday Cows*, plus *The Cursed Tomb* and *Letty Pegg*.

Mrs Burns

D&D Club

D&D Club runs every Thursday after school for any student who wishes to join. D&D was set up by one of our Year 9 students:

"I created D&D club so that the members of the school community could play in sufficient time, and I had noticed that it seemed quite popular. It is even more successful than I initially thought, with students from all years attending, and I am extremely pleased at the result. I personally run a campaign every week, and I have enjoyed every single session since it started in September of 2025, and it is really good to see so many people rushing to D&D club after school, including some that run their own campaigns."

Henry, Year 9



Artwork

Year 7 have recently produced some fish paintings during their Art lessons, adding in acrylic textures in the style of J Vincent Scarpace. Some of these can currently be viewed outside The Market Place Shopping Centre in town



Careers



It has been a busy term for Year 11 students, they formally received their Mock Exam results in the Barnden Hall replicating the way that they will receive their GCSE results in the summer. It was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling students. This was followed by a well attended Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening. Our careers adviser, Christine came into school for the final two days of 1-1 sessions with Year 11 students helping them to understand their next steps. We have provided extensive support to students in making college applications and college interviews have begun.

Year 9 students have been exploring their next steps through the Guided Choices programme. Assemblies led by Mr Snelling outlined the options process, while subject leaders introduced courses not taught at Key Stage 3. In lessons, students have received detailed information about subjects at GCSE level and beyond. We were also delighted to welcome the University of Brighton to run workshops for Year 9 students on choosing GCSEs and making informed decisions.

Our 10 Year 8 students who have been participating in the BHAFC Social Enterprise Challenge took part in workshops during breaktimes to practice and refine their presentations ahead of our visit to the American Express offices in Burgess Hill for a celebration event. During this event, students received a tour of the building, spoke to a variety of different employees about their career paths and worked with AMEX volunteers on further developing their presentations.

The final stage was to present their ideas in teams to senior AMEX staff who will decide as to which team and school will go forward to the national Premier League Challenge and represent BHAFC. The students involved have been outstanding throughout the programme; their confidence has grown during the variety of tasks and it truly was a delight to see them present their ideas with such enthusiasm.



On Tuesday, we ran a workshop for Year 11 students interested in apprenticeships, focusing on where to find vacancies and how to navigate the application process. We were also pleased to welcome Year 11 parents to a virtual information evening, which explored ways to support young people pursuing apprenticeship opportunities.

Finally, Year 10 work experience will take place during the week commencing 18th May 2026, and a small number of students are still seeking placements. If you or your employer are able to offer a placement and would be happy to support a student, please contact Mrs Dorgan at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk. We have a group of enthusiastic young people with interests across a wide range of industries - your support would make a real difference in helping inspire the next generation.

Mrs Dorgan

News and Celebrations

Holocaust Memorial Service

Burgess Hill Town Council marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a service at St Johns Church on Tuesday 27 January. The multi faith event brought together representatives from around the town, including the Burgess Hill Mosque and the Brighton and Hove Synagogue.

Speakers from each faith community emphasised the importance of standing together against hatred and remembering the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides.

We were represented by two of our Year 10 Student Leaders, who wrote and delivered a thoughtful speech about Anne Frank. Their contribution highlighted the importance of educating younger generations about the past and the need to promote tolerance, understanding, and respect for all.



Burgess Hill Youth Council

The latest Youth Council meeting took place earlier this week and four of our Student Leaders attended.

The Youth Councillors enjoyed a presentation from Peter Williams about Burgess Hill's nature reserves, learning about the wildlife that can be spotted locally.

Councillors and their classmates were invited to take postcard-size photos of local wildlife -such as flowers, birds, animals, insects, and spider webs - and bring them to the next meeting. These will be displayed to celebrate nature in the community.

The group also returned to the Sports Survey discussion, building on the ideas shared at the previous meeting. Councillors answered further questions to help ensure their views can be reported back to the adult Town Council.

Finally, members suggested topics they would like to explore at future meetings, with the option of inviting more guest speakers to talk about issues that matter to young people.

The Parents Lottery

We're excited to share that the Academy has now signed up to The Parents Lottery - an easy and fun way to support the school while also being in with the chance to win big.



Tickets cost just £1 per week, and every entry gives you the opportunity to win a fantastic £25,000 jackpot in the weekly draw. Even better, a portion of every ticket goes directly back to the Academy, helping to fund valuable resources and opportunities for our students.

It's a simple way to make a difference, and every ticket counts. For more information on how it supports the Academy and how to take part, please visit www.theparentslottery.org.

We'd love your support - please consider signing up and sharing the link with friends and family too.

Social Media

You can now follow us on Facebook

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



And on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/theburgesshillacademy>



Academy Community Together (ACT)

PTFA News

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

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 23 February	Start of Term 4
Thursday 26 February	Year 7 PCE
Friday 27 February	Year 10 Southern Schools Book Awards
Wednesday 04 March	Year 7 Dover Castle Trip (W & X half)
	Year 9 Td/IPV & Men ACWY Vaccinations
	Year 10 Business Networking Event
Wednesday 11 March	Year 7 Dover Castle (Y & Z half)
Thursday 12 March	Year 8 PCE
Tuesday 24 March	Year 7 Maths Masterclass – University of Sussex
	Year 9 Individual Photographs
Friday 27 March	End of Term 4

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>