



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 5 : Apr - May 2026

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students for the fantastic effort and commitment they have shown throughout their GCSE exams so far. It has been wonderful to see the maturity and determination with which they have approached this important period, and we are incredibly proud of the positive attitude they have demonstrated. We wish them every success as they prepare for their final exams in Term 6.

I am also delighted to share some excellent news: following a visit from JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications), the organisation responsible for inspecting schools during the examination period, we received a first-class report. This is a real credit to the hard work and professionalism of our staff. In particular, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr Snelling and Mrs Mitchell for their organisation and meticulous attention to detail in ensuring everything ran so smoothly.

Across the school, it has been lovely to see our students continuing to engage so positively with school life and making encouraging progress both in and beyond the classroom. We are especially pleased to see increasing numbers of students taking part in our after-school sports clubs.

Term 5 has also been packed with enrichment experiences. Students enjoyed a photography shoot in Brighton, a memorable visit to Everton Football Club, and our Year 9 students showed great resilience as they braved the weather during their residential trip to Blackland Farm! Meanwhile, Year 8 students enjoyed stepping back in time with their visit to Hampton Court Palace.

It has also been wonderful to see so many of our students engaging so enthusiastically with the Book Fayre this week. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with this and for continuing to nurture a love of reading at home - it really does make such a difference.

Within school, we have continued our strong commitment to personal development and student wellbeing. This term, students took part in a two-day Progressive Masculinity workshop, exploring important themes around misogyny and respectful relationships. Alongside this, assemblies have focused on British Values, Mutual Respect and Tolerance, encouraging students to reflect on the importance of kindness, understanding and inclusion. I have been incredibly impressed by the maturity and thoughtfulness with which students have engaged in these conversations, and we remain committed to ensuring that our school continues to be a kind, respectful and supportive place for everyone.

Finally, we say goodbye to Mr Katsikas, who leaves us this term. We thank him for all he has contributed to school life and wish him and his family every happiness and success as they begin an exciting new chapter in China. He will be greatly missed by colleagues and students alike.

As we look ahead to the final term of the academic year, I would like to say a sincere thank you to all students, staff, parents and carers for your continued support throughout Term 5. Together, we continue to make our school a positive and thriving community.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Clinton
Principal

Life at Our Academy

Lunchtime Clubs

This term, the Board Games Club and Lego Club joined together to create one fun and welcoming lunchtime club, running every Thursday lunchtime and every other Friday lunchtime in the Tech Workshop. Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been attending regularly, enjoying a mix of Lego building, board games, card games, chatting and spending time with friends. The club has become a safe and relaxed space where students can unwind, have fun and socialise with others who share similar interests.

We are always happy to accept donations of old board games, card games or Lego from parents and families to help grow the club and give students even more activities to enjoy. Looking ahead to the summer term, students will also begin designing and making their own games and game pieces, combining creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Mrs Alexander-Lindsay

Hampton Court

This term, we took our brilliant Year 8 students to Hampton Court Palace, where they had the opportunity to step back in time and experience history in action. From exploring the magnificent Tudor kitchens to learning about the lives of Henry VIII and his court, the visit brought classroom learning vividly to life.

One of the highlights of the day was visiting the spectacular Great Hall, where students learned that William Shakespeare and his company performed for King James I in 1603. Standing in the very room where Shakespeare's plays were once brought to life gave students a powerful connection to both literary and royal history, helping them imagine what entertainment at court would have been like over 400 years ago.

Adding to the success of the trip was the beautiful weather, which allowed everyone to enjoy the stunning gardens and grounds in the sunshine. It was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved, and we hope the visit has inspired an even greater interest in history among our Year 8 students.

We were incredibly proud of the exemplary behaviour shown by all students throughout the day. They represented the school with maturity, curiosity, and enthusiasm, receiving compliments from members of the public, Palace and coach staff.



Ms Vella

Professional Chef visit

The Burgess Hill Academy had a very special guest come visit the Year 7 Food Technology class earlier this month. Chef Ellie from the company 'Prept' is a professional chef who has worked with celebrities like David Beckham and even served the Royal Family! Chef Ellie came in to show the students how to make Nasi Goreng, an Indonesian dish, whilst teaching them all about Umami - the fifth basic taste. Year 7 had an amazing time and showed off their excellent food skills. Two students said afterwards: "It was amazing fun" and "Chef Ellie was great". One of the students said, "Chef Ellie helped make the cooking really easy". We look forward to more visits from Chef Ellie next term when she will visit the rest of Year 7 and Year 8!

Mx Edgerton

Year 9 Camp

Over the course of the final week of this term 50 Year 9 students attended a residential trip to Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre. A wonderful experience, even with the horrendous weather for the first group, where students took part in a number of Outdoor Adventurous Activities like rock climbing, abseiling and archery.



As always our students represented the school fantastically and we are so proud of them.



A massive thank you to all the staff that supported the running of the trip; Mrs Rayland, Ms Cole, Mr Bashford, Mr Griffith and Ms Stringer. We look forward to next year!

Mrs Rayland

Year 10 Photography Trip

Last week, 66 students and 6 staff enjoyed an inspiring day in Brighton as part of the GCSE Architecture project. The trip gave students the opportunity to carry out a series of planned photoshoots at some of Brighton's most iconic landmarks.

In preparation for the visit, students had been studying a range of influential photographers and carefully planning the shots they wanted to capture. Throughout the day, they explored and photographed locations including the West Pier, the i360, the Upside Down House, the Royal Pavilion, Palace Pier, The Lanes, the Clock Tower and many more.



The trip was a fantastic success, with students demonstrating creativity, enthusiasm and excellent focus as they worked on gathering images for their coursework. We were also incredibly lucky with the weather - the hail held off until we were safely back in Burgess Hill.



Mrs Bishop

United by Sound

Our *United by Sound* enrichment initiative has continued to thrive throughout Term 5 with an enthusiastic cohort of Year 9 pupils. Over the past few weeks, students have been working collaboratively to perfect a vibrant performance of Jammin' by Bob Marley, developing not only their musical talents but also their confidence, teamwork, and creativity along the way.

The programme has provided pupils with a valuable opportunity to express themselves through music, build positive relationships, and experience the sense of achievement that comes from performing together. It has been wonderful to see students grow in self-belief and resilience as they rehearse, support one another, and take pride in their progress.

United by Sound continues to demonstrate the powerful impact that music and enrichment opportunities can have on wellbeing, engagement, and personal development. We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our Year 9 cohort and hope to see the initiative continue to grow and inspire even more pupils in the next academic year.

Mrs Freen

Exploring Masculinity Workshops

A group of male students took part in an engaging and thought-provoking Exploring Masculinity (Progressive Masculinity) Workshop. The programme provided students with the opportunity to explore what it means to "be a man" in today's world through a series of interactive discussions, practical activities, and reflective tasks.

The workshop focused on a range of important topics including effective communication, male friendships, anger management and self-regulation, attitudes towards education, masculinity in the digital world, gender allyship, and the importance of aspirations and positive role models. A Year 9 student said, "*It was great, it really opened my eyes to a real life understanding of how boys can be perceived*".

Throughout the two days, the students demonstrated outstanding maturity, enthusiasm, and willingness to participate. The boys were highly interactive during the sessions, contributing confidently to discussions, sharing thoughtful ideas, and supporting one another in a respectful and encouraging environment. Their engagement and positive attitude were a real credit to the Academy. One Year 10 student said of his experience "*It highlighted the importance of not being misogynistic and promoted being kind*".

The workshop tutor was particularly impressed by the students' maturity, openness, and level of participation. He praised the group for the way they approached sensitive topics with honesty and respect, highlighting the excellent discussions and strong sense of teamwork shown throughout the programme.

This valuable experience has helped students build confidence, develop important social and emotional skills, and reflect on the impact they can have within the school community. Following the programme, students will continue their journey as Masculinity Ambassadors, helping to promote positive attitudes, respectful relationships, and supportive behaviours across the wider student body.

We are incredibly proud of all students who took part and look forward to seeing the positive impact they continue to make within our school community.

Mr Griffith

Year 8 Plaza Uno

On Wednesday we went to a Spanish restaurant called Plaza Uno. When we got there we were asked what drink we'd like and we responded in Spanish. They came out with some Spanish omelette (Tortilla Española), meatballs (albóndigas), calamari (calamares), rice (arroz) and croquettes (croquetas). My favourite was the meatballs because they were very tasty. I didn't like the calamari as much as it was a bit chewy, but overall, it was really good. Before we left, we said "gracias!" to the restaurant staff.



Year 8 Student



Year 10 Maths Trip

On Friday 15th May, a group of Year 10 students attended a mathematics outreach day at the University of Brighton. The visit aimed to give students an insight into how mathematics is studied and applied beyond school, whilst also introducing them to life at university.

Across the day, students took part in a variety of activities led by university lecturers and ambassadors. These included collaborative problem-solving tasks, mathematical investigations and discussions around how maths links to different careers and industries. Students were encouraged to approach problems creatively, explain their thinking and work together to test different ideas.

Alongside the workshops, students were able to explore parts of the university campus and learn more about higher education opportunities. For many students, this was their first experience visiting a university, and it provided a valuable opportunity to begin thinking about future pathways and aspirations after school.

The students were a real credit to The Burgess Hill Academy throughout the visit. They approached the day with maturity, curiosity and excellent attitudes, fully engaging with the sessions and representing the school positively at all times. University staff commented on how well students participated and how willing they were to contribute during activities and discussions.

Overall, the trip was an extremely positive experience that gave students the chance to challenge themselves academically whilst gaining a wider understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future.

Mr Haimes

Athletics News

Well done to all the athletes across Years 7,8,9 and 10 who took part in the Sussex trials at the K2, Crawley. Huge congratulations to Isabella C (Year 8) who won 1st place in High Jump and 2nd place in the 100m. Isabella progresses to the next round where she will compete at High Jump for Mid Sussex Schools. We wish her good luck for the championships on the 13th June!



Fifteen enthusiastic Year 8 students attended the Girls in Technology and Engineering Day at Edwards Vacuum on Wednesday 13th May. Throughout the day, students participated in a carousel of engaging activities designed to introduce them to the wide range of careers within engineering and technology.

The day began with an informative presentation about the company, its products, and the many different departments within the business. Staff members then introduced themselves before students split into groups of five to take part in a series of hands-on engineering and technology activities.



One particularly popular session focused on Virtual and Augmented Reality, where students had the opportunity to try a range of different headsets. Volunteers from the business explained how this technology supports engineers in repairing equipment remotely, with specialists able to guide them through processes using the headsets.

Another activity involved working with vacuum pumps, where students dismantled and reassembled pump components, connected pipe systems, and tested them for leaks.



Students also enjoyed a tour of the facility, including views of the main testing floor and demonstrations involving vacuum pumps and a bell jar. These experiments showed the effects of removing air from a container using marshmallows, balloons, and shaving foam, which proved fascinating for everyone involved.



The day concluded with a teamwork challenge in which students were given 15 items and asked to rank them from most to least useful after a fictional crash landing on the moon. It was a fun and thought-provoking activity, with students sharing a range of interesting ideas and opinions.

Overall, the event provided students with a valuable insight into careers in engineering and technology, supported by inspiring female role models throughout the day. Huge thanks go to all the staff at Edwards Vacuum who helped make the experience such a success.

A fantastic week of careers assemblies took place at The Burgess Hill Academy.

We began the week with an inspiring talk from Kate West MBE, a Captain with easyJet, who spoke to our Year 7 students about careers in aviation and the journey to becoming a pilot. During the assembly, Kate highlighted how a range of curriculum subjects link to the role and gave students an insight into what a typical working day looks like. She also explored the many different career opportunities available within the travel industry. It was an engaging and motivating session that truly inspired our students.

Later in the week, we were delighted to welcome Steff Provines and Steven Fogden from Barclays Bank, who delivered assemblies to students in Years 7–10 on the important topics of fraud, scams, and money mules. The sessions were highly interactive, informative, and full of practical advice on how young people can keep themselves safe online and financially aware.



These assemblies delivered important messages for students to take away, and we are incredibly grateful to all our visitors for giving up their time to support and inspire our students.

Groups of Year 8 students took part in two sessions aimed at raising aspirations and understanding barriers to learning. During the sessions, we considered our personal brand and what each student had to offer. There was also opportunity to reflect on personal barriers which prevented us from reaching our goals.

On the 28th and 29th April, 5 Year 8 students were delighted to be selected to represent both the Academy and Brighton and Hove Albion at the Premier League Inspires Event at the Hill Dickinson Stadium in Liverpool. After weeks of developing their social action project focused on wellbeing, students enjoyed a packed and exciting 36 hours in Liverpool.



After a long train journey and unpacking at the hostel, the trip began with an evening walk through the city centre and the historic docks. Early the next morning we left to travel to the home of Everton FC, Hill Dickinson Stadium, for a celebration event where we joined 45 other schools representing their local football clubs.

Representing Brighton & Hove Albion FC, our students proudly showcased their project on mental health and wellbeing which was a friendship bracelet craft session. They were outstanding

ambassadors throughout the event, engaging confidently and positively with representatives from football clubs across the country (many of whom were older). This was an amazing experience for our students who were an absolute credit to themselves and the academy.



A huge thank you to Brighton & Hove Albion FC for providing such a fantastic opportunity. The experience has helped students develop a wide range of valuable skills, and they should all feel incredibly proud of their achievements.



We were delighted to welcome Michael Grainger to the Academy to give a talk to our Year 10 students studying French and Spanish. During his presentation, Michael highlighted the importance of learning languages and the many opportunities they can create, both personally and professionally. He shared insights into his own career journey and spoke about the incredible experiences and opportunities that have come from his passion for languages. Michael also spoke about the importance of developing key employability skills and using these skills to help you to stand out in interviews. It was a truly inspiring and motivational talk for our students.

Our Year 10 students have been receiving amazing reports from their host business's during their Work Experience this week.

"Can we please keep them?"

"They've fitted right in – already a member of the team"

"Doing a great job and I wish everyone we have was as hard working as she is"

"Brilliant, very focused, very involved, cannot fault him"

Congratulations to all our students who have been on work experience this week – you've been amazing, excellent ambassadors of TBHA! Huge thanks to all the businesses who hosted a placement this week – we really appreciate their support.

A small group of students have also taken part in an alternative work experience week in school. We were delighted to welcome Thakeham Homes to run a sustainable homes based project pitch. Over two days the students researched and created amazing team based projects based around the marketing of a completely carbon zero house. The team from Thakeham were really impressed with the quality of the presentations created. We also had a trip to the Gatwick Airport STEM Centre where we made Lego robots and then wrote code to enable them to race. Included in this trip was a careers and apprenticeship talk and a tour of the backroom working of baggage handling with talks on the variety of engineering needed to run this and a visit to the observation deck.



Mrs Dorgan

News and Celebrations

Music Exam Success

Many congratulations to the following students who have achieved Music Grading success this term

Evie (Year 10)	ABRSM Grade 3 Cello
Lucy (Year 11)	ABRSM Grade 5 Theory
Kasper (Year 11)	Trinity Rock and Pop Grade 7 Drums

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

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Preloved Uniform Sale at the beginning of the month - together we raised an amazing

£1,135!

All funds raised will go towards refurbishing the Library, helping to create an even better space for our students to learn and enjoy reading.

We are now looking for more donations, especially:

- School skirts
- PE tops
- Smaller uniform sizes



Our next Preloved Uniform Sale will take place on Saturday 4 July 10am – 12pm. Along with uniform we will also be selling stationery items, including calculators, which are part of the required equipment.

If you are able to help with the event, even if just for an hour, please complete the following Form: [Support with Preloved Uniform Sale – Fill out form](#) or contact us act@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

Dates and Useful Information

Dates

Monday 01 June

Wednesday 03 June

Monday 08 June

Wednesday 10 June

Wednesday 17 June

Thursday 18 June

Tuesday 30 June

Wednesday 01 July

Monday 06 July

Tuesday 07 July

Wednesday 08 – Friday 10 July

Wednesday 08 July

Thursday 09 July

Monday 13 July

Tuesday 14 – Wednesday 15 July

Wednesday 15 July

Thursday 16 July

Friday 17 July

Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 July

Wednesday 22 July

Thursday 20 August

Start of Term 6 (Week B)

Year 8 HPV

Year 10 Sports Studies Trip

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Year 10 Sports Studies Trip

Year 10 Maths Trip

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Year 11 Prom

Y6 Welcome Meeting

Year 6 Transition

Inset Day

Year 10 Tate Modern Trip

Year 9 Imperial War Museum Trip

Year 7 Camp

Year 8 Imperial War Museum Trip

Year 10 Tate Modern Trip

Year 10 Plumpton College: Future Fields Trip

Years 7 – 10 Musical Theatre Residential

Year 8 Careers Morning

Sports Day

Year 10 Maths Trip

Years 7 – 10 Celebration Evening

Diversity Day

Year 10 Battlefields Trip

End of Term 6

GCSE Results Day

Start of Academic Year 2026-2027

Tuesday 01 September	INSET Day 1
Wednesday 02 September	INSET Day 2
Thursday 03 September	Year 7 & Year 11 Only
Friday 04 September	All Years
Wednesday 16 September	Year 6 Open Evening

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>