



The Burgess Hill Academy

Community Newsletter

Term 6 : June - July 2026

Message from The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment simply to say 'Thank You'. We are incredibly grateful for the positive relationships we share with our families and know that having your support and trust makes an enormous difference.

Looking back over the year, I am filled with a great sense of pride. Our students have shown resilience, kindness, determination and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. They have challenged themselves in lessons, represented the school with pride, performed on stage, competed on the sports field, participated in careers activities, supported local causes, cared for one another and, perhaps most importantly, grown as young people. Our Year 11 students deserve a special mention as they leave us after completing their examinations. They have worked incredibly hard and shown remarkable resilience. We are immensely proud of everything they have achieved and know they have bright futures ahead of them.

I would also like to thank our exceptional staff. Their dedication, care and unwavering commitment to our students extend far beyond the classroom. Our children have participated in more extra-curricular activities than the school has ever offered with the school's reputation continuing to grow as a result.

As the summer holidays begin, it is important you all have the chance to slow down a little and spend time together as a family. I hope you can enjoy earned a well-deserved rest, and that the return to school in September will be positive and exciting.

Finally, on a personal level, I would like to thank the school community for allowing me to lead the school. I have been very lucky to be so well supported by students, staff and parents and know that the significant progress we have made is a result of such a strong collective effort.

With my very best wishes,

Karen Clinton
Principal

Life at Our Academy

Geography Field Trip



Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students recently travelled to Brighton to complete the compulsory fieldwork element of their GCSE course. During the day, students investigated the success of the regeneration of the New England Quarter by carrying out environmental quality surveys, land use mapping and questionnaires with members of the public. They then moved to Brighton seafront, where they collected data on coastal processes by measuring beach profiles and observing coastal management features.

The students were an absolute credit to the Academy throughout the visit. Their behaviour was exemplary; they represented the school with pride.

Members of the public even commented on how polite, respectful and engaged they were when carrying out their questionnaires. They worked collaboratively to collect data and demonstrated excellent geographical enquiry skills; invaluable preparation for their GCSE exams next year.



Mr Adam-Bell

Sports Department Update

Athletics:

On Wednesday 3rd of June students in Y7-Y10 competed at the Reg Clarke Games held at the K2 in Crawley. It was a great day for TBHA across all of the athletic events! A huge improvement from the last one! (albeit extremely wet!)

Special shout outs:

- 1st: Isabella C in High Jump and 100m. Charlie K in 300m
- 2nd: Junior girls relay team
- 3rd: Lucy E in High jump and 100m. Esme B in Discus.





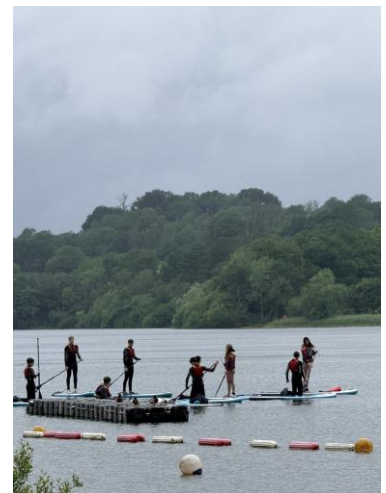
Congratulations to James Frost, Oscar Knowles and Harry Spilsted in Y9 who competed at the Sussex Cricket Breaking Boundaries competition this month - representing Sussex Flare. It was a wonderful day of cricket and the Sussex Flare team came out victorious, winning the final on the last ball of the game!

Cricket:

The U15 girls' team this term played an exciting qualifier against Downlands for the U15 softball league. Although we didn't come out victorious, it was a wonderful afternoon of cricket with some excellent bowling, fielding and batting on display.

Y10 Sport Studies:

Y10 sport studies students had the annual kayaking and paddleboarding trip at Ardingly Reservoir as part of their practical moderation for the OAA unit of their course. Students were very lucky with the rainy weather, although nearly all of them ended up in the water anyway! It was a great way to start term 6 as students learnt both skills but also had lots of fun through game-based learning.



Mrs Rayland

DofE Celebrations

Congratulations to all of our Bronze DofE participants, who successfully completed their qualifying expedition this weekend. Students demonstrated outstanding teamwork and determination throughout the two days. There were some challenging moments along the way, yet every participant persevered, supported one another and made it to the final checkpoint having successfully completed the expedition.

After a long day of walking, everyone enjoyed spending the evening together around the campfire before preparing for the second day of the expedition.

We are incredibly proud of every student for the maturity, positive attitude and resilience they showed throughout the weekend. Well done to all involved!



Mr Adam-Bell

Celebrating Excellent Attendance

We are delighted to share that attendance has improved significantly across the school this year. Regular attendance plays a vital role in students' academic success, wellbeing and sense of belonging, and this improvement reflects the fantastic partnership between school and home.

A huge **thank you** to all of our parents and carers for your ongoing support in ensuring that students attend school every day they are able to. Your commitment has made a genuine difference.

To celebrate this achievement, students took part in a friendly tutor group attendance competition throughout the year. The winning tutor groups enjoyed a visit from an ice cream van as a well-deserved reward, and students with exceptional individual attendance were also recognised for their outstanding commitment.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to every student who has made attendance a priority this year.

Wishing You a Wonderful Summer

We hope everyone enjoys a happy, relaxing and safe summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning and achievement.

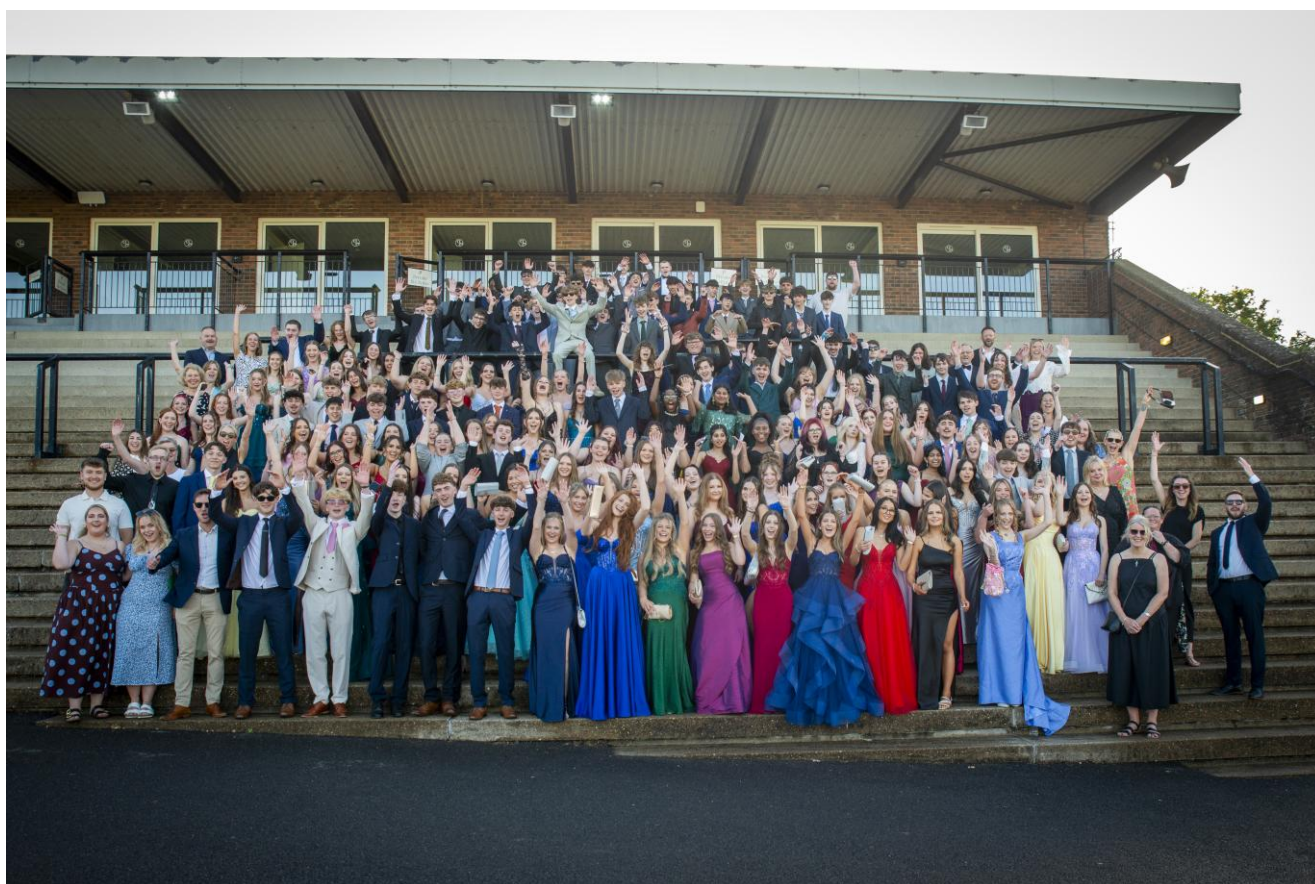
Mr Griffith

Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11 students had a fantastic evening at their prom at Plumpton Racecourse. They worked incredibly hard to meet the criteria to attend, demonstrating excellent attendance, strong commitment to Period 6 sessions and zero conduct concerns.

We were extremely proud of how impeccably behaved, polite and respectful they were throughout the evening. The team at Plumpton described the students as "a credit to the school" and praised both their conduct and engagement.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate their time at the academy. We will miss them greatly and look forward to welcoming them back in August to receive their GCSE results. Thanks to PhotographybyArchie for the wonderful photos.



Mr Snelling

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 camping trip was the best thing all year. Even though it was extremely hot, the fun activities stopped everyone complaining. Examples of the activities were axe throwing, leap of faith, zip-line, camp fire, climbing and aeroball. These were all equally as fun and all the instructions were extremely kind. The trip gave everybody chances to make new friends and face their fears. My favourite bit was the leap of faith. The place had lots of animals and trees and was a very relaxing environment.



Zoe in Year 7

Diversity Day

This year's Diversity Day was another wonderful year for students to show off their pride, connect with each other through similar interests and enjoy some cake.

The students of clubs SAGE (Sexual And Gender Equality) and FREE (Feminist Revolution for Equality and Empowerment) came together to hold a sale raising money for Cancer Research UK and raised £144! They worked really well together to plan the event and advertise for it including the reappearance of their own original designed mascot DIMO, short for Diversity Monster, chalked onto the floor between A and B blocks and appearing in posters.



All students took part in a task during tutor linked to this year's theme of "identity", recognising an area of their lives they identify closely with. They did this by designing their own character based off a flag connected to something they identify with. We had some great designs based of LGBTQ+ flags, England flags with the world cup football team in mind and other nationalities flags students connect strongly with.

Thank you to all those who donated to such an amazing cause and we look forward to seeing some students come back to help plan or take part in next year's Diversity Day.

Have a fantastic Summer break!

Mr Billing

Year 9 Imperial War Museum

It was my privilege to again accompany our Year 9 students on a trip to the Imperial War Museum in London. 92 students attended the museum over two days, and despite the sweltering conditions, were absolutely magnificent in their conduct and attitude. In their history lessons this year, our Year 9 students have studied topics including the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Rise of Hitler in Germany, and were able to explore many exhibits that supported these themes. The Anderson and Morrison shelters were popular again this year, as well as the First World War trench reconstruction and Spitfire and V2 rocket. We look forward to taking our current Year 8s to the museum next year.



Mr. Cable

Music Department Update

Musical Theatre Residential to London

Thirty of our talented Musical Theatre students recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to London, packed with inspiring performances and exciting practical experiences.

During their visit, students had the opportunity to watch two outstanding West End productions: *Oliver!* and *Matilda*. Seeing these world-class performances live gave them a fantastic insight into the professionalism, creativity, and artistry of musical theatre at its very best.



A particular highlight of the trip was taking part in a *Matilda*-inspired

workshop at the world-famous Pineapple Studios. Led by an industry professional, students learned choreography inspired by the hit musical, developed their performance skills, and experienced what it is like to train in one of London's most renowned dance studios.



The group stayed overnight at the Royal National Hotel, making the most of their time in the capital while creating lasting memories with friends and staff.

The residential was a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their confidence, deepen their appreciation of musical theatre, and experience the magic of London's West End firsthand. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, impeccable behaviour, and commitment shown by all 30 students throughout the trip, and we hope the experience has inspired many future performers.

"The musicals were incredible – sets, actors, songs..... And everything was beautiful!" – Jess (year 10)

"The workshop was really fun and the musicals were an amazing experience" – Erica (year 10)

"The whole trip was amazing. I loved watching Oliver and Matilda. The Pineapple workshop was such fun!" – Sophie (year 10)

Live Lounge

Last week, we were thrilled to host **The Burgess Hill Academy's first-ever Live Lounge Concert**, welcoming a happy and relaxed audience for an evening of fantastic live music.

With fairy lights, fresh flowers and a cosy café-style setting, the atmosphere was warm and inviting from the very beginning. Students performed an impressive variety of musical styles, including pop, rock, musical theatre, acoustic favourites and instrumental pieces, showcasing their talent, confidence and hard work.





Thank you to everyone who came along to support our performers and helped make the evening such a wonderful success. We can't wait for the next Live Lounge!

London Meed Summer Concert

Congratulations to Abi, Jacob, Ryan and Xavi who performed at the London Meed Summer Concert on Friday 10th July. We are incredibly proud of your hard work, confidence, and fantastic performances. You represented our school brilliantly and added to the wonderful celebration of music. Well done!

Mrs Freen

Maths Enrichment Trips

Year 7 Students Triumph at University Maths Challenge

On 16th May, a group of Year 7 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Brighton for a day of mathematical problem-solving, teamwork and challenges.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of engaging mathematical activities designed to stretch their thinking, develop their problem-solving skills and encourage them to work collaboratively. They approached every task with enthusiasm and determination, representing the school brilliantly throughout their visit.



The highlight of the day was the Maths Challenge competition between schools, where our students produced an outstanding performance. Working together as a team, they managed to answer every single question correctly – the only team in the entire competition to achieve a perfect score. This incredible result saw them finish in first place overall, a fantastic achievement of which they should be extremely proud.

Just as impressive as their mathematical success, was the way the students conducted themselves throughout the day. Their behaviour was exceptional, and they demonstrated maturity, enthusiasm and a wonderfully positive attitude from start to

finish. They are a real credit to the school.

Huge **congratulations** to all of the students involved. To come first against other schools is a brilliant achievement, but to do so as the only team to answer every question correctly made the result even more special. A fantastic day and a thoroughly deserved success!

Year 10 Maths Enrichment at the i360

On Thursday 16th July, a group of our Year 10 mathematicians enjoyed a fantastic day at the Brighton i360, combining mathematics, engineering and an unforgettable experience above the Brighton coastline.

The morning was spent tackling a range of hands-on mathematical challenges designed to develop higher-level problem-solving and reasoning skills. Students worked collaboratively to solve increasingly demanding tasks, helping to prepare them for the challenges they will face as they continue their GCSE Mathematics course in Year 11.

In the afternoon, students had the opportunity to meet one of the engineers who works on the Brighton i360. He gave a fascinating insight into his role, explaining how mathematics plays an important part in the design, maintenance and operation of the attraction. He also spoke about his own educational journey and the different pathways that led him to a career in engineering, giving students a valuable glimpse into the real-world applications of the maths they study in school.

To round off an excellent day, students enjoyed a trip to the top of the Brighton i360, taking in the spectacular views across the city, the South Downs and the Sussex coastline.



The students were a real credit to the Academy throughout the day. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and willingness to engage with every activity were exemplary, and they represented the school brilliantly. We hope the experience has inspired them as they continue their mathematical journey into Year 11.

Mr Haimes

Summer Safeguarding

Summer Safeguarding

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, we would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support. Your partnership has made a real difference, and we wish all of our families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

Although school is closed over the summer holidays, safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. We encourage families to continue having open conversations with young people about staying safe, whether they are spending time online, meeting friends, travelling independently or taking part in holiday activities.

Some helpful reminders include:

- Encourage safe and responsible use of social media and online gaming.
- Know where your child is, who they are with and when they are expected home.
- Remind young people never to share personal information online or arrange to meet someone they have only met online.
- Encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about themselves or someone else.

- Ensure they know what to do in an emergency and who they can contact for support.
-

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child during the school holidays, please contact the **West Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**:

- **Telephone:** 01403 229900 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am–5.00pm)
- **Out of hours:** 0330 222 6664
- **Email:** MASH@westsussex.gov.uk

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm, please contact **999**.

Mr Griffith

Sports Day

The 2026 TBHA Sports Day took place over 3 days this year due to the extreme heat! The result are as follows:

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
1st	F1	T2	S1	F1
2nd	F2	F2	T1	T2
3rd	S1	S1	T2	S1

The house competition which includes all tutor groups from all years:

- 1st - Farah
- 2nd - Turing
- 3rd - Seacole
- 4th - Pankhurst

A special shout out to the following individuals who achieved new school records:

- Elena and Jacob Y7 - Standing Long Jump
- Charlie Y8 - Standing Long Jump
- Isabella Y8 - High Jump - a record which has stood since 1981!
- Sam Y9 - Standing Long Jump
- Oliver and Lucy Y10 - Standing Long Jump



Mrs Rayland

Mid Sussex STEM Challenge

STEM Stars Shine at the Mid Sussex STEM Challenge Final!

A huge [congratulations](#) to our incredible STEM Challenge Team, who represented The Burgess Hill Academy with outstanding enthusiasm, determination and professionalism at the **Mid Sussex Interschools STEM Challenge Final**, held at **Flowserve in Haywards Heath**.

After many months of planning, designing, testing and refining their projects, our students had the opportunity to showcase their hard work to a panel of industry professionals. We could not be prouder of the way they rose to the occasion. Their presentations were confident, engaging and well-prepared, clearly demonstrating the knowledge, creativity and teamwork they have developed throughout the challenge.

The team's vehicles performed brilliantly during the competition, a testament to the dedication and perseverance they have shown over the past year. Just as impressive was the way our students spoke with the judges and visitors throughout the day. They answered questions with confidence, explained the engineering behind their designs with enthusiasm and maturity, and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.



Beyond the competition itself, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for students to meet engineers and STEM professionals, gain an insight into future careers, and experience first-hand how the skills they learn in school are applied in the real world.

The students should be immensely proud of everything they achieved. Their commitment, resilience, collaboration and positive attitude were evident throughout the day, and they represented The Burgess Hill Academy

with distinction. We look forward to seeing where their passion for STEM takes them next.

Well done to every member of the team—you were truly outstanding!



Mrs Carter

Careers



Term 6 Careers activities started with an introductory assembly from Dave White of Gatwick Airport Engineering introducing the bridge building challenge which would be taking place in subsequent Science lessons for the whole of Year 7. Dave explained about the importance of bridges and the engineering that helped to create them. He also spoke about the huge variety of engineering roles at Gatwick Airport and the apprenticeships that are available.

During



subsequent Science lessons, in pairs using only the limited equipment supplied by Gatwick Airport, Year 7 students designed and built their bridges. This task required teamwork, resilience, problem solving and creativity and the students built some incredible structures which withstood some considerable weight. The students were supported in this activity by volunteers from Gatwick Airport and everyone had an amazing time. A great example of careers in the curriculum! We definitely have some future engineers in Year 7!



We were delighted to invite Lee from Varndean College to speak to our Year 10 students about the International Baccalaureate – a fantastic qualification which offers students the opportunity to continue studying a broad curriculum at Post 16. Our Year 8 students heard all about the vocational opportunities, particularly apprenticeships at Crawley College in an informative presentation. Our Year 10 students also heard from Nick at the Institute for Technology, an amazing new addition to the Crawley College site giving students hands on practical qualifications in engineering, construction and digital courses.

Our Year 7 and 8 students on Food rotation this term were excited to meet Chef Ellie from the Prept Foundation who provided them with a chance to take part in food tasting of unusual ingredients. Students then watched a



demonstration of preparation and cooking of Nasi Goreng which they then recreated themselves using ingredient provided by the Prept Foundation. This truly is a wonderful opportunity for our students and we are so grateful to Chef Ellie and the Prept Foundation.

38 student leaders took part in a Rail Safety Workshop with the University of Brighton sponsored by Govia Thameslink where they learnt about the importance of staying safe around railway lines.

Our Careers Adviser, Christine, from Elev8Careers, has been in meeting Year 10 students helping them to consider their Post 16 plans.

Meanwhile, two groups of Year 7 students have taken part in Aspiration Workshops, looking at jobs, skills and the future of the workplace.



Finally, Year 7 students took part in the BAE System STEM Roadshow, an amazing, interactive stage show showing every day practical uses for scientific material.



It was amazing to see so many Year 7 students volunteer to take part on stage demonstrating the way that materials work in a fun and engaging way. We are so grateful to have been the final visit of this brilliant show sponsored by BAE Systems, The Royal Navy and The Royal Airforce and well done to all our student volunteers!

It was a delight to accompany members of our F24 Car Club to attend the Mid Sussex STEM Fair for primary schools. Our students exhibited the work that they had done on the F24 car and a working 3D printer creating a part for the wing mirror of the vehicle. Lots of wonderful conversations with the primary students about how the car was designed and built and we showed videos of the last race held. Our Year 10 and 11 students represented the Academy and themselves incredibly well and we were very proud of them.



Mrs Dorgan

News and Celebrations

Music Exam Success

Exam Successes

James (year 7) – Trinity Grade 1 Drums

Zoe (year 7) – Trinity Grade 2 Drums

Ryan (year 10) – Trinity Grade 5 drums

Elle (year 8)– Rockschoool Grade 5 Vocals

Lucy (year 11) ABRSM Grade 6 Saxophone

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

£1,275!

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

Our next Preloved Uniform Sale will take place on Tuesday 1st September 3.30pm-5pm. 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

Thursday 20 August	GCSE Results Day
Tuesday 01 September	INSET Day 1
Wednesday 02 September	INSET Day 2
Thursday 03 September	Start of Term 1 Year 7 & Year 11 Only
Friday 04 September	All Years start back
Wednesday 16 September	Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 24 September	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 11 Post 16 Information Evening
Thursday 8 th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening
Friday 23 October	End of Term 1

Academic Year 2026-2027

Term 1	Starts: Thursday 03 September 2025 Ends: Friday 23 October 2026 INSET day: Tuesday 01 September 2026 Wednesday 02 September 2026 Monday 5 th October 2026
Term 2	Starts: Monday 02 November 2026 Ends: Friday 18 December 2026 INSET day: Friday 27 th November 2026
Term 3	Starts: Monday 04 January 2027 Ends: Friday 12 February 2027 INSET day: Monday 4 th January 2027 Friday 12 th February 2027
Term 4	Starts: Monday 22 February 2027 Ends: Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	Starts: Monday 12 April 2027 Ends: Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	Starts: Monday 07 June 2027 Ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027 INSET day: Monday 5 th July 2027

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>