

16 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

ACADEMY FRIDAY UPDATE 5

I am delighted with the progress of our students in embracing the higher learning expectations. Most are showing exceptional attitudes and mature behaviours in and out of the Academy. Thank you sincerely for your support especially as we are in the same position as other schools when having to isolate students or staff due to Covid risks if they are awaiting test results.

As part of our home learning preparation in case of lockdown, we are preparing all lessons to be available on-line next Tuesday, 20 October via Google Classroom. Please ensure your child accesses these lessons during this home learning day and during normal school hours. We are doing this trial to identify any issues with access. Registers of student's attendance to these lessons are being taken. Staff have spent many days preparing to use this technology and are excited about the initial feedback and positive way it has been embraced by students. Do contact your child's Learning Lead if there is a problem accessing lessons from home.

Warmest wishes



Catherine Davies
Executive Principal

Additional updates from around the Academy

Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 has highlighted the need for young people to be educated and supported around keeping themselves online. This includes a focus on how they keep themselves online when using technology within the home environment.

Assemblies next week in the academy, which are currently taking place in the tutor groups, will be led by the Heads of House and will include information and advice around online safety. This comes at a time when we have been alerted to the fact that young people are being asked through Instagram pages to upload images of themselves. Can we please take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that no-one under the age of 13 should have their own Instagram account.

Further information on Instagram for parents/carers can be found at the following link, as well as the academy's own Information and Support for Parents/carers page on our website:

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-instagram>

If you have any concerns regarding the use of social media by a student at the academy, please contact our Safeguarding Team.

Trudy Hillman
Senior Leadership for Safeguarding

Art



A few examples of Mrs Baker-Hughes Art work.

Year 7 Art Students Homework's. They were asked to design a front and back cover with A theme that they enjoy, using mixed media. Some fabulous work year 7. Well done!



Lana Hardwick in year 10 has re-created this Artist Response using a range of different mixed media.

Mrs Watts
Director of Arts

Computer Science Update

This week in Computer Science year 7 have been learning about the different parts inside a computer and how they work together. Year 8's have been working on their python programming and have been creating a quiz using what they have learnt on variables as well as selection using IF and ELSE. Year 9 have investigated how the CPU works in a computer as part of the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle. Year 10's have started a programming project where they will be writing a python program which calculates a range of discount codes. As part of this project they will be planning their project using pseudocode and flowcharts. Year 11 are looking at validation and verification and how these can be used to make programs more robust.

Mrs Morris has been really impressed with the whole of her year 11B class so far this term who are working extremely hard, giving brilliant answers in class and just generally being an absolute pleasure to teach. Other students who have stood out this week are Logan S-M (year 10) for constantly excelling in his learning, Louie B (year 9) for excellent answers in class and Kanya B (year 11) for fantastic programming.

Mrs Morris
Head of Computer Science

Drama

It has been a busy term here in the Drama department, with all manner of creative ideas and projects on the go. Year 7s have been learning how to develop a character and investigating a spooky rumour surrounding Darkwood Manor- a fictional old mansion on the outskirts of town. They have created their characters, made an ID badge for homework and investigated some of the rumours and next week they are going inside the house to see if those rumours are true! It has been lovely to see students develop positive relationships with their peers and begin to develop their communication and teamwork skills as they learn in a different environment.

Year 8s have been exploring the world of Superheroes and how to structure their own superhero TV series. This week, we've investigated how to put a narrative together using different practitioners and theories and lots of Year 8 have been working at an exceeding level by using GCSE theory in their work... Wow- we're so impressed! We've had all manner of Superhero characters and sidekicks, from the stereotypical muscly and strong 'Superman' types, to the clever, witty and mysterious otherworldly heroes. Rest assured, Year 8 will save the day!

Year 9 have started their GCSE Drama by looking at Stanislavski's theory of naturalism to create believable and realistic characters. They have applied their knowledge of Stanislavski's system to explore Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* in which adult actors play children characters. This practitioner is essential to the study of Drama as his influence has had an impact on the TV shows and films we watch today- including all your favourite soap operas. Students have looked deeply at character emotions, intentions and how to show these on stage by breaking down their scripts into smaller units and analysing the dialogue and stage direction.

Year 10 have been working on monologues and duologues this term and have continued to apply Stanislavski's methods to unpick their scenes. This week, they have been in the final stages of rehearsal, preparing for their assessed performances. We have seen an array of characters with every student putting their own spin on their character through some focussed research and investigation into the play's context and meaning. We have been very impressed with Year 10's independent approach to rehearsing and their ability to manage their time effectively.

Year 11 are in the process of creating their Devised performance piece as part of their coursework unit. They were given range of stimuli from an article about the realities of Instagrammers, to the lyrics from David Bowie's *Space Oddity*. Using these stimuli, they have created performance pieces which reflect themes and issues still relevant to today, utilising a range of practitioners and with some highly creative ideas such as projecting tweets and text messages onto an actor whilst delivering a monologue. We have been impressed by the level of experimentation and how the Year 11 students have been pushing the boundaries of performance work with their rehearsals so far. Well done!

Drama Stars this week:

Year 7

- Sophia L for maintaining focus and challenging her group during rehearsal work.
- Jana D for her AMAZING Drama homework- an ID badge PLUS a policeman's hat, moustache & glasses – all handmade!

Year 8

- Emily B for her focus, detail in written work and leadership in group work.
- Joe G for his improved attitude and focus in lessons.

Year 9

- Lydia W for her inquisitive attitude towards the lessons and always asking questions.

Year 10

- Luca M for his improved attitude and focus during practical work- producing a great scene.

Year 11

- Sacha B and Jack L for their experimental and abstract ideas in practical work.

A huge pat on the back to all of our budding actors, some fabulous progress so far.

Miss Leadley

Head of Drama

Food

Another successful week in the Food department. Year 7 students have been making French bread pizza with great results and year 8 are getting ready for spicy bean burgers next week. I was really impressed with the response from 8Y3B on Wednesday when they followed the loom powerpoint on Protein. The extended writing proved to be exceptional, demonstrating accurate recall and literacy skills.

The year 10 students have been looking at allergies and intolerances and as a consequence have made gluten and lactose free macaroni cheese, quite a feat considering the ingredients required normally.

The year 11 students are developing their higher level practical skills with making homemade puff pastry, pasta and this week will put their hand to de-boning chicken ready for a Thai green curry. This is all in preparation for the NEA2 work that will be started soon after half term. Prior to that we are revising hard ready for the mock examinations the first week back in November.

Year 9 are settling down well and are proving to be adept in the practical sessions, producing well-presented chicken fajitas this week.

Mrs Bradwell

Head of Food

Geography

Over the last week, we have been looking at river management in year 8, and in year 7 we will continue our virtual tour of the world practising our map skills. In year 9 we will continue to investigate tropical rainforests, year 10 continue to look at tectonic events – the responses and the management strategies. Year 11 are continuing to investigate rivers and prepare for their mock exams. Google classroom is being used by staff and all lesson powerpoints are there for students to go over after the lessons. There are also links to Seneca learning and the geography you tube channel for KS4 students. Year 11 also have access to past exam papers and mark schemes and a visual glossary.

Star students this week:-

- Quinn L - Year 10 - making an excellent start to geography
- Lily P – Year 10 – great use of facts about the effects of earthquakes
- Harley S - Year 10 – good engagement
- Milo C - Year 10 – a fantastic exam answer
- Harry G, Dylan G, Jana D and Darcie D – Year 7 – consistent high levels of effort.

Mrs Megit

Head of Geography

History

It has been a busy time in the History department over the last week. A lot of historical understanding has been developed across all the year groups. In year 7 they have completed their end of term assessment looking at key historical skills such as source inferences and using interpretations all surrounding their topic on the Anglo-Saxons and the Norman Conquest. In year 8 they have been evaluating what it takes to be a 'good leader' and then applying these evaluation skills to knowledge on the two main leaders during The Third Crusade; Richard I and Saladin. Whereas in Year 9 they have been focusing their knowledge on the Black Death of 1348 studying it's suspected causes and common beliefs surrounding its cures. Year 10 have been analysing the 'Golden Age' under Stresemann within Weimar Germany and thinking, as many historians still do, as to whether Stresemann should be remember as a hero or whether he was just a plaster covering up the cracks within 1920's Germany. And last by no means least, year 11 have been racing through their Germany revision studying the Early Nazi Party and the key turning point event of the Munich Putsch.

Keep up the great work Historians!

Students that have been mentioned by staff for some outstanding work this week are;

Year 7 – Freddie R – For great passion and enthusiasm in History.

Year 8 – Jake H – For always trying his best and being incredibly polite.

Year 9 – Yassin B – For good participation and enthusiasm in History.

Year 10 – Ellis R – For great knowledge on the Germany unit.

Year 11 – Tilly D – For a massive turn around in History with her knowledge and attitude.

Ms Williams & Mr Anstey

History

Languages

Students in French, Spanish and Latin have been getting to grips with Loom lessons this week, as teachers walked through how to find lessons, how best to use the resources they have and what our expectations will be in the event of a lockdown or if they need to self-isolate. I was a very useful exercise, with students and teachers learning from the experience! We look forward to seeing their responses to learning from home on Tuesday, 20 September.

Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for mocks in November, using listening resources independently and rising to the challenge of higher-level exercises on Language Gym and Seneca, our dedicated language websites. Year 9 Classical Civilisation students have produced amazing work on the Hercules legend, exploring how heroic he really was - special mentions to Jake G, Luke H and Safiyya L who have displayed excellent knowledge on the subject.

Mrs Lindsay

Head of Languages

Maths

The maths department have been busy this week teaching both normal face-to-face lessons and creating remote learning videos for our trial day on Wednesday this week and Tuesday next week. It has been a very enjoyable learning curve for students and staff.

In lessons this week students in Year 11 have been busy refining their algebraic skills as well as undertaking general revision for the upcoming mock examinations. Year 10 students have, for many, had their first experience

with the wonders of Trigonometry for both right angle triangles and non-right angle triangles- some very advanced mathematical skills! Year 9 have been extending their number skills and bonds, year 8 have been working with scales, ratio and proportion whilst year 7 are becoming algebraic experts.

Maths Joke of the week

Parallel lines have so much in common; ... it's a shame they'll never meet.

Hegarty Maths- Stars of the week

Figures for this week only:

Year 11	Ellamay E – 8.1 hours	Charlotte C - 6.2 hours	Millie-Rose L 6 hours
Year 10	Callum K – 4.5 hours	Poppy H – 3.8 hours	Ellie B-S – 3.4 hours
Year 9	Alex H – 4.6 hours	Lexie P – 4.2 hours	Emily K – 3.9 hours
Year 8	Anas C – 4.6 hours	Archie C – 4.5 hours	Isobel E – 3.5 hours
Year 7	Nathan S – 5.2 hours	Missy B – 4.5 hours	Lilia B – 4 hours

Mr Tumi
Assistant Principal of Maths

Music

This week year 7 have continued building performance skills – this time focussing on the basics of keyboard skills and starting to learn to sing a melody in a 'covid secure' way. We are looking forward to building these performance skills further as we move towards next term as well as working towards potential concerts (probably in a 'virtual' sense – watch this space)! Year 8 have been developing ensemble skills too within the context of Bizet's *Carmen* and famous ostinati that were composed. Next week year 8 will be working towards a paired performance of the famous melody from the 'Habanera' with the ostinato bassline.

Year 9 students are refining their small ensemble performances ready for assessment next week, as well as continuing to build an understanding of instrumentation, timbre and sonority. Year 10 have continued their exploration of musical features within music categorised as 'traditional music' from the GCSE specification. This week they have explored Salsa music and evaluated the differences and similarities to the styles it is 'fused' from (such as Big Band Jazz, Blues & Cuban Son). Year 11s have explored the wider context of classical music and how Haydn's *Clock Symphony* fits within this time. Next week we will be completing some revision for mock exams.

Instrumental lessons – thank you for the applications that we have received. We will be contacting soon regarding putting on timetable for next term. We are still taking in new application forms too. If you are interested please see Mr. Lewis or Mr. Baxter for a form or please see the application form on the website.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Lewis
Head of Music

Year 7 Update

I would like to congratulate Year 7s who took part in wearing something yellow and supporting Mental Health events on Friday last week! Mental health activities are continuing this week in tutor time. Please can I take this

opportunity to remind you that on Wednesday the 14th October we ran through home learning lessons during the school day to support Year 7s if they were absent from school or in the event of self-isolating/lockdown. On Tuesday 20th October Year 7s students will be accessing their on-line lessons at home and will not be in school that day. If there are any problems with accessing Google Classroom or Satchel One please email StudentITHelpdesk@bexhillacademy.org as the team will be able to help. Weather permitting, we hope to have another fire drill so that Year 7 students know to exit the building quickly and quietly so they can line up in tutor groups and in alphabetical order. Please could you ask your son/daughter what tutor group number they are in as this will help them to line up safely. We will continue to practice this before the end of term so students are comfortable. Well done Year 7 on another good week and for having the best attendance in the Academy!

Dr Jakes
Learning Lead Year 7

Year 8 Update

Year 8 have had an excellent week with some superb work from students.

Anas C – has completed the most time on Hegarty Maths more than any other student this week. Well done!

On Wednesday, 14 October students were taught remotely by their teachers. Teachers had pre-recorded lessons through google classrooms to give students an idea of how their lessons would look if we had to learn from home. Feedback from students has been great and they have enjoyed the new online platform. This has been excellent practice for their home learning day on Tuesday, 20 October.

Mr Humphrey
Learning Lead Year 8

Year 9 Update

I would like to congratulate year 9 for another wonderful week of learning, it has been lovely to see so much fantastic work being produced. This is evident from the vast number of positive points being added to class charts for year 9 students. Over the last week, these students managed to achieve the highest number of positive points and with no negatives. Well done to Archie D who has received 26 positive points, Rio G (21), Jade M (20), Thomas M (17), Ryan T (17), Umar I (15) and Ella L (15).

I look forward to seeing more fabulous learning take place next week.

Mr Anstey
Learning Lead Year 9

Year 10 Update

Another week has flown by and as ever, there has been lots going on and lots to celebrate. The year 10s have completed their practice day and have engaged with the 'loom' lessons really well - I received lots of positive feedback from staff about their engagement and application as well as the informative feedback they gave to their teachers to make sure home learning is as good as it can be. Thank you to all year 10s who have been so open and helpful in this process.

A special mention to 5 of our best students this week who have received several achievement points this week for good work/homework, good progress and showing respect to our community:

Manale C, Danny McM, Lilly Hu, Scarlett C and Mahiya Y.

Great to see students being brilliant!

Mr Wilkinson
Learning Lead Year 10

Year 11 Update

Another exciting week for year 11. Year 11 student leaders have continued their process of application for head student.

Year 11 students have been looking at mental health awareness week in their PSHE lessons and during tutor time. An important subject for all as they prepare for their mock examinations week beginning 2 November 2020.

Form of the week goes to 11BA7. Hegarty form of the week goes to 11BA10

Student of the week is Katelyn Sayers – for her outstanding efforts and engagement in lessons this week.

Mr Eldridge
Learning Lead Year 11

Attendance

REMINDER for parents:

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to contact the academy by 8.30am on the first day of absence. Please either use the school absence line 01424 735516 and leave a message or alternatively text the school mobile number 07537436325. Please state clearly the name and year group of your child together with the reason for absence.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU RESPOND TO ANY TEXT YOU RECEIVE FROM SCHOOL REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE. This is a free text system for parents/carers.

Nikki Ashdown
Attendance and Safeguarding Manager

Careers

Year 10 – Work Experience letters were sent recently – please discuss the opportunity with your son/daughter and return the Expression of Interest by 2 November 2020. If you did not receive the letter, information is on our website: <http://www.bexhillacademy.org/about/careers-information-for-parents2fcarers>

Year 11 –1:1 Careers Guidance Interviews will be taking place from 23 November 2020 for two weeks. Letters were sent home including the additional Parental Consent form, in case of a lockdown situation. Please ensure the form is returned to careers@bexhillacademy.org .

Information is on our website <http://www.bexhillacademy.org/students/careers> 1-2-1 Careers Guidance Interviews

College Assemblies have now taken place virtually for Year 11 – please ask your son/daughter to complete the survey which has been sent to their school email.



Parents/Carers – we need you! Please get in touch if you have any involvement with apprenticeships - careers@bexhillacademy.org

Miss Holden
Careers Adviser

Duke of Edinburgh

Fantastic well done to Evie R and Haiden H who have received the Certificate of Achievement for their Bronze DofE.

The other participants are all so close with just the final pieces of evidence to upload.

The new 2020/21 Bronze group have all begun their activities and are enthusiastic about starting the award.

Well done to everyone!

Mr Jarvis & Miss Holden
DofE Team