

ACADEMY UPDATE

BEXHILLACADEMY.ORG



Bexhill
Academy

Friday 31 January 2025



Welcome to Week 4 of Term 3

As we approach the midpoint of Term 3, I wanted to share an update on our progress and highlight a value that sits at the heart of our school community this term: **kindness**.

Upcoming Events:

Year 10 Parents' Evening:
Wednesday 12 February
4.00pm - 7.00pm

The past few weeks have been filled with inspiring examples of our students engaging deeply with their learning, collaborating in extracurricular activities and demonstrating the resilience and curiosity we strive to nurture. This week we are continuing to place a special emphasis on fostering kindness – not only as a virtue but as a daily practice that strengthens relationships and builds a supportive environment for all.

Why Kindness Matters

At Bexhill Academy, we believe kindness is foundational to creating a culture where every student feels safe, valued and empowered to thrive. This week, students are exploring what kindness looks like in action – whether through small acts of consideration (helping a peer, offering encouragement) Kindness is not just about being 'nice'; it is about empathy, respect and taking responsibility for the wellbeing of others.



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How You Can Support at Home

Parents and carers play a pivotal role in reinforcing this message. Here's how you can help:

- Discuss kindness at home: Ask your child how they've shown or received kindness this week.
- Model empathy: Share stories of kindness from your own experiences, highlighting how small actions can have a big impact.
- Celebrate efforts: Praise your child when they demonstrate kindness, even in simple ways – it encourages continued positive behaviour.

A Note on Balance

As always, we recognise the demands of this term, with assessments and activities in full swing. Please remind your child that kindness begins with self-care. Encourage them to take breaks, talk openly about any worries, and prioritize their mental and physical wellbeing.

A Special Thank You

I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the parents, carers, and students who attended the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 29 January. Your presence and engagement are a testament to the strong partnership between home and school, which is so vital to our students' success. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, discussing progress, celebrating achievements, and setting goals for the future. Your support makes a real difference and we are incredibly grateful for your commitment.

Our school's strength lies in the collaboration between staff, students and families. Should you have any questions or wish to share feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together we can ensure this focus on kindness leaves a lasting legacy for our students.

With gratitude,
Dr Craig Neal



MESSAGES



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Parking and Road Safety

We have recently received concerns about disabled parking bays being blocked, preventing those who genuinely need them from accessing these spaces. Please be mindful when parking and ensure these bays remain available for those who rely on them.

Additionally, we'd like to remind everyone about road safety near the main gate. With increased traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, it is essential to drive carefully, follow parking rules, and prioritise the safety of our students, staff and families.

Jewellery and Piercings Policy

Just a quick reminder of our school guidelines on jewellery and piercings:

- Retainers are permitted instead of nose piercings.
- The only acceptable ear jewellery is a single pair of stud earrings.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring students adhere to these rules, helping us maintain a safe and focused learning environment.

Polite Notice

A reminder to please let us know if your child is coming into school unwell.

If a child becomes too unwell to stay in school we will contact you.

Did you know?

If your child is absent, you can notify us by sending us a message via Edulink or calling 01424 730722, Option 1 and leaving a voicemail.



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MESSAGES



Work Experience Opportunities – Can You Help?

We're asking our school community for support in providing work experience opportunities for our students.

If you work in **garages (mechanics), engineering, beauty/hairdressing, or finance/accounting**, and can host a student, please let us know. Employers will need to have employer liability insurance in place.

These opportunities are incredibly valuable for our students, helping them gain real-world experience and develop key skills. If you can help or know someone who might, please reach out.

Thank you for your support.

Jackie Houlihan

Year 7 Administrator and Work Experience Co-ordinator

FILM SCREENING



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Kindness Month at Bexhill Academy – Free Film Screening & Celebrating Kindness

We are celebrating **Kindness** at Bexhill Academy, and we would love for you to join us. As part of the celebrations, we are hosting a **free screening** of the brand-new blockbuster *Twisters*.

Twisters is a high-adrenaline disaster thriller, bringing a fresh, action-packed twist to the classic storm-chasing adventure. Expect jaw-dropping special effects, edge-of-your-seat suspense, and an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Event Details:

Date: Monday 10 February


Time: 4:30pm

Venue: Bexhill Academy Theatre

Important: Students must attend with a parent or carer.

[Book your spot in advance here.](#)

FREE MOVIE NIGHT



Click Here to Book

FEBRUARY 10 2025 | 4:30PM
BEXHILL ACADEMY THEATRE
STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR CARER

We would love to hear from you! If you are doing something kind for your community, let us know. We'd be delighted to support and celebrate your efforts.

Let us make February a month of compassion, generosity, and connection. Together, we can create a ripple effect of kindness that extends beyond our school and into the community.

We hope to see you at the screening and look forward to celebrating kindness with you all!



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UNIFORM



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Bexhill Academy – Uniform Reminder

We would like to take a moment to remind all students and parents of the importance of wearing the correct uniform at all times:

- Blazers are compulsory every day.
- Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on their blazer and tie.
- Shoes must be black, polishable, and free from any obvious branding. (Please remove any silver tags from the laces.)

At Bexhill Academy, we place great value on students presenting themselves well and looking smart, as this helps them be ready to learn and thrive. By working together we can maintain a high standard of uniform across the school.

Additionally, if your child has outgrown any uniform items, please consider donating them to the school so they can be reused by others.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a high standard of uniform.

Together we are fostering an environment where all students are prepared and proud to represent the Academy.



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SPARX MATHS



Is Your Young Person Using Sparx? They Should Be!

Sparx Maths is an invaluable online platform that provides personalised maths homework tailored to your child's learning level. Each week their homework reflects what they have learned in class, while also revisiting past topics to reinforce their understanding.

With video tutorials to guide them through tricky questions, Sparx helps students build confidence and achieve 100% completion. Consistent use of Sparx Maths strengthens their foundation and sets them on the path to reaching their full potential in maths.

If your child isn't already using Sparx, now is the time to start! To learn more about how Sparx can benefit your child, please visit:

[Sparx Maths for Parents](#)

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child excel in maths!

SPARX MATHS



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Students in your school have completed

7,369 hours

of personalised learning
on Sparx Maths this year!

663,309

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so
far this year

**Can we hit 1,500,000 correctly answered
questions by the end of the year?**

**Year 7 – Term 3 Week 3
Average XP Score per student –
FORMS**

1ST – 7BA04
2ND – 7BA01
3RD – 7BA09
4TH – 7BA07
5TH – 7BA06

**Year 8 – Term 3 Week 3
Average XP Score per student –
FORMS**

1ST – CONNECT
2ND – 8BA06
3RD – 8BA04
4TH – 8BA07
5TH – 8BA01

**Year 9 – Term 3 Week 3
Average XP Score per student –
FORMS**

1ST – 9BA06
2ND – 9BA01
3RD – 9BA03
4TH – 9BA05
5TH – 9BA09

**Year 10 – Term 3 Week 3
Average XP Score per student –
FORMS**

1ST – 10BA04
2ND – 10BA02
3RD – 10BA01
4TH – 10BA03
5TH – 10BA10



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YEAR 7 DT BRIDGE STRUCTURES



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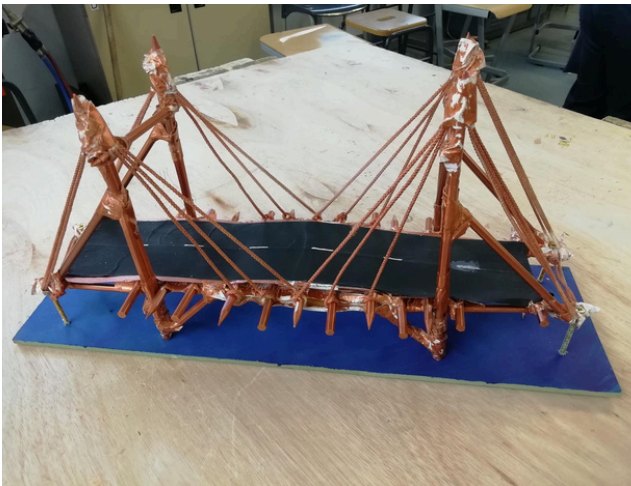
In DT, our Year 7 students have started their Structures project, focusing on bridges. They're learning how bridges work, what materials they are made from, and how frames are constructed.

For homework, students are designing and building their own bridges using materials like paper, cardboard, straws and plastic. Their bridges must be at least 30cm long and no more than 15cm wide - no limit on height.

In class, students are working in teams to build wooden bridges using 6 x 60cm lengths of wood. The challenge is to create the strongest bridge that can hold the most bricks - a great way to develop teamwork and problem-solving skills.

We are proud of their progress and creativity so far. Thank you for your continued support!

Mark Lynch



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GROWTH MINDSET TRIP



University of Brighton Trip

Ten students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Brighton after participating in Growth Mindset seminars led by the university's Outreach team.

They were warmly welcomed by Jake, Lucy and Evie – an outstanding student ambassador – before embarking on an engaging campus tour, complete with a quiz.

The university's impressive facilities sparked curiosity and inspiration. A highlight of the day was the architectural LEGO challenge, where students designed and built their own university buildings with creativity, humour, and attention to detail.

After lunch in the university canteen, students explored Growth Mindset principles, asked insightful questions, and set SMART targets for the future.

Overall it was an enriching experience filled with learning and inspiration – perhaps even igniting future university ambitions.

Oliver Rogers



SPORT



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Results from this week:

- Year 8 and 9 Girls Rugby tournament – postponed due to waterlogged pitches
- Year 7 Boys Rugby vs Imberhorne – 50 – 15 loss

W/C Monday 3 February:

Monday – Year 7 Girls Football vs St Richards @ Home

Monday – Year 8 Boys Rugby vs Sackville @ Home

Tuesday – Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics @ Away

Wednesday – Year 8 Girls Cricket tournament @ Away

Wednesday – Year 8 Boys Football vs Claverham @ Away

Wednesday – Year 8 Girls Netball vs St Richards @ Away

As always, thank you for supporting our students as they represent the Academy.

Ben Petty

Director of Physical Education



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SPORT



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On Monday 27 January, 11 students from years 7 and 8 hosted a football skill session for 50 Year 4, 5 and 6 girls from All Saints primary school. The students selected to lead this recently attended a girls' football leadership course.

During the session our Bexhill students showed fantastic organisation, communication and coaching skills, which lead to a successful outcome. All Saints has since said how happy the students were after the session and many of the students who were apprehensive about the session were asking to come again!

I am extremely proud of the students and we are looking forward to organising more sessions for local primary schools.

Jade Devereux



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LANGUAGES



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Key Stage 3 Linguists Shine in French and Spanish

Students in Key Stage 3 French and Spanish lessons have been busy improving their speaking skills.

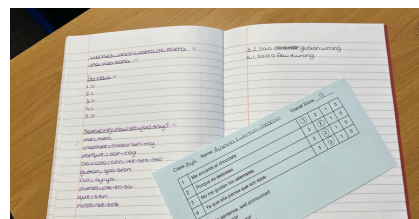
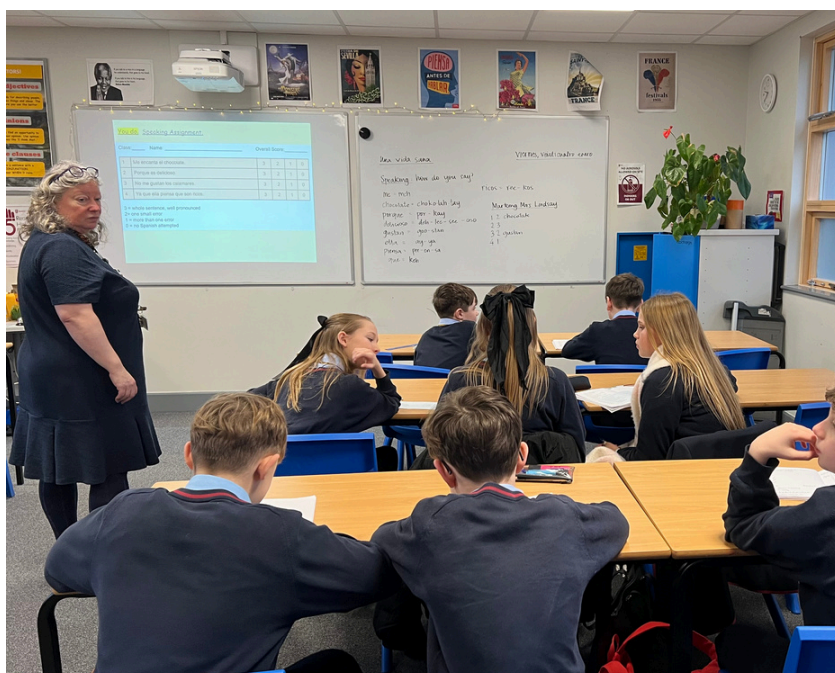
They have been practising their accents by reading sentences aloud to each other in class, focusing on pronunciation and fluency.

Teachers have been incredibly impressed with their dedication and concentration. Students listened carefully to their peers to provide feedback, while the class teacher acted as the 'Television Match Official' to resolve any queries or uncertainties.

Well done to all our linguists for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Super travail! / ¡Buen trabajo!

Diane Lindsay



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COOKING



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Student Culinary Achievements

This week our students have demonstrated exceptional technical cooking and presentation skills in the kitchen.

Year 10 students showcased their ability to produce chocolate fondants with custard, mastering the precise techniques required to achieve a perfectly gooey centre and smooth custard. Their attention to detail and commitment to high standards were evident in their final dishes.

A special mention goes to Myah in Year 9, who impressed with her beautifully executed Swiss Roll. Her light, airy sponge and carefully rolled presentation highlighted both skill and precision.

Well done to all students for their hard work and dedication to developing their culinary expertise.

Laura Purdy



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SAFEGUARDING



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How Safe is WhatsApp for Children?

WhatsApp is one of the world's most popular messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people across 180 countries. It allows users to send messages, make voice and video calls, and participate in group chats. While it can be a great way to stay connected, there are concerns about its safety for children and young people.

Although WhatsApp is rated 16+, all that's needed to create an account is a phone number, making it easy for younger children to bypass age restrictions. Once one child in a group or class joins, peer pressure can lead others to follow, increasing potential risks. The NSPCC has highlighted vulnerabilities for child users, including exposure to inappropriate content, contact with strangers, and cyberbullying.

For more information on how to keep your child safe online and to read the NSPCC's full analysis, please visit:

NSPCC: [Is WhatsApp Safe for My Child?](#)

Stay informed and help us ensure our children's online safety.

Deborah Holter
DSL



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SAVE THE DATE



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Coming Up

Spring Soiree – Thursday 1 May 2025

Shrek the Musical – Tuesday 15 – Friday 18 July 2025

Tickets available here:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bexhill-academy



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MUSIC LESSONS



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Learn an instrument at Bexhill Academy!

We have some spaces available for students to learn an instrument at Bexhill Academy from next term!

We are very lucky to have a visiting team of excellent, industry professional music tutors across a range of instruments and vocals who come into school to deliver 30 minute lessons.

You can learn: piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, pop vocals, musical theatre vocals, classical vocals, flute, accordion, violin and/or music theory.

[Please click here to see the details on the form and application](#)

Did you know that learning an instrument has many other benefits? See below for all these benefits and more!

Why Learn an Instrument?

- 
Promotes social skills
- 
Sharpens your concentration
- 
Boosts your team skills
- 
Teaches you perseverance
- 
Improves reading and comprehension skills
- 
Exposes you to cultural history
- 
Improves memory
- 
Bettens your mathematical ability
- 
Creates a sense of achievement
- 
Refines your time management skills
- 
Boosts listening skills
- 
Offers opportunities for visiting new places and meeting new people
- 
Provides a means of relaxation
- 
IT'S FUN!

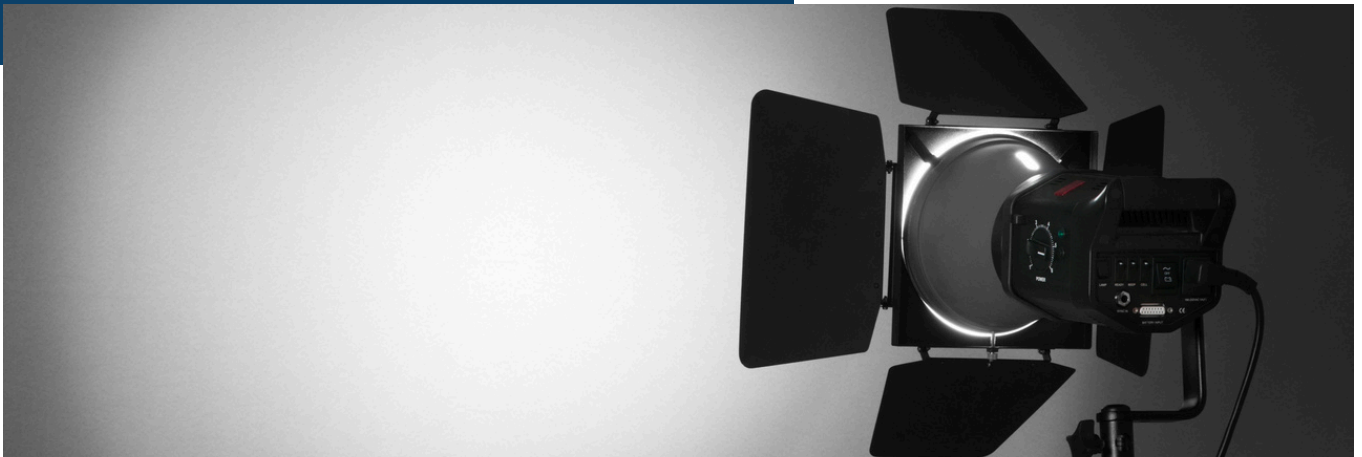


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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



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Celebrating Our Staff: The Heart of Bexhill Academy

At Bexhill Academy, our staff go above and beyond every day to support, inspire, and empower our students. To shine a light on their dedication, we are launching a new weekly showcase – introducing the incredible people who make a difference in the lives of young people.

Each week, we will highlight a different member of our team, sharing the vital work they do to nurture, guide and support our students, whether in the classroom, through pastoral care, or behind the scenes.

Our first feature introduces **Denni Holdsworth**, our CLA Keyworker and EBSA Attendance Support, whose work provides a lifeline for students facing significant challenges.

Stay tuned to learn more about the fantastic staff who help make Bexhill Academy a place where every student can succeed!



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



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Meet Denni Holdsworth: Supporting Every Student at Bexhill Academy

At Bexhill Academy, we are proud to introduce Denni Holdsworth, our dedicated CLA (Children Looked After) Keyworker and EBSA (Emotional-Based School Avoidance) Attendance Support. Denni plays a vital role in ensuring that every student, regardless of their challenges, feels supported, valued and empowered to succeed.

A Safe Space for Children Looked After

Denni's office, known as The Hive, is a calm, welcoming space where students can work, take a break, or seek support. As the key adult for children in care, Denni works closely with foster families, social workers and virtual schools, ensuring every child's needs are met. Through learning walks, she helps tailor classroom support, ensuring students have the right environment to thrive.

Helping Students Overcome School Anxiety

For students struggling with anxiety, Denni runs a morning tutor group (8:30-9:30) in a quiet space near reception. This provides a relaxed start to the day with activities like coloring, games and light academic work. As confidence grows, students are introduced to The Hive, where they gradually reintegrate into mainstream lessons with a nurturing approach.

Supporting Families Beyond School

Denni's commitment extends beyond the classroom – she also carries out home visits, working closely with families to support students in their return to school. Her patience, care and dedication transform lives, helping students rebuild confidence and re-engage with learning.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Denni as part of our team. Her work ensures that every student, no matter their circumstances, has the opportunity to succeed at Bexhill Academy.



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DATES



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Term 3 – Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 12 February – Y10 Parents' Evening

Term 4 – Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 26 February to Friday 7 March – Y11 Mock Exams
- Wednesday 12 March – Y9 Options Evening
- Thursday 20 March – Y9 Option Form return
- Wednesday 26 March – Y11 Parents' Evening
- Friday 28 March – Y11 Geology trip
- Tuesday 1 April – Y9 Vaccinations
- Thursday 3 April – Y10 Paris trip

Term Dates

- Monday 6 January – Start of Term 3
- Friday 14 February – End of Term 3
- Monday 24 February – Start of Term 4
- Friday 4 April 12.30pm finish – End of Term 4
- Tuesday 22 April – Start of Term 5
- Monday 5 May – Bank Holiday – The Academy is closed
- Friday 23 May – End of Term 5
- Monday 2 June – Start of Term 6
- Tuesday 22 July 12.30pm finish – End of Term 6



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