

ACADEMY UPDATE

BEXHILLACADEMY.ORG



Bexhill
Academy

Friday 28 February 2025



Welcome to Term 4 week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you all had a restful break and that students have returned feeling refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Year 11 Mock Exams Underway

This week marks the start of the Year 11 mock exams, a crucial period for our students as they prepare for their final GCSEs. I want to commend them for their dedication and focus so far. These exams provide a valuable opportunity to identify strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring students are well-prepared for the summer. Please continue to encourage your child to revise effectively and seek support from their teachers where needed.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday 6 March
World Book Day

Wednesday 12 March
Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 20 March
Year 9 Option Form Return

Wednesday 26 March
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 23 April
Year 7 Parents' Evening
(4.00pm - 7.00pm)



Bexhill
Academy

World Book Day – Exciting Events Next Week

Next Thursday, 6 March, we will be celebrating World Book Day, and we have a fantastic line-up of activities planned to encourage a love of reading. Reading is a fundamental skill that supports success across all subjects, and we encourage all students to get involved. More details on specific events will be shared with students during tutor time.

Year 9 Options Evening – Wednesday 12 March

As we move further into the academic year, our Year 9 students will soon be making important decisions about their GCSE options. To support them in this process, we will be hosting our Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 12 March. This is an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about the subjects available, speak to teachers, and ask any questions they may have.

Choosing GCSE options is a significant step in every student's journey, and we encourage all Year 9 families to attend and gather as much information as possible to make informed decisions. Further details will be sent out in due course.

Keeping Up the Momentum

As we move into the new term, maintaining good habits is essential. Attendance, punctuality, and engagement in lessons all play a key role in ensuring students achieve their potential. Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing these values at home.

I look forward to another successful term and to seeing our students continue to excel in all areas of academy life.

Kind regards,
Dr Craig Neal
Headteacher



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.



MESSAGES



Bexhill
Academy



Thank you for joining us at the Year 10 Parents' Evening. We were delighted to share important information about your child's next steps on their journey at Bexhill Academy.

We also raised £85 for charity thanks to your generosity, and we truly appreciate your support.

We hope you found the evening informative and valuable. Please share your feedback [via his link](#), your input helps us continue to improve our events.

Jo Deeprise



Bexhill
Academy

CROSS COUNTRY



Bexhill
Academy



Sussex Schools' Cross Country Championships

On Tuesday, 25th February, I had the pleasure of taking 10 of our most talented Year 7 & 8 runners to the Sussex Schools' Cross Country Championships at Christ's Hospital in Horsham.

The event saw an incredibly high level of competition, with large numbers of runners taking part:

- Year 7 Girls: 2.6km (330 competitors)
- Year 7 Boys & Year 8 Girls: 3.1km (330 & 290 competitors, respectively)
- Year 8 Boys: 3.5km (270 competitors)

Despite the tough, muddy conditions, our students all ran strong and determined races, placing in the top half of their respective categories—an outstanding achievement! Several even made the top 50.

Although we are still awaiting the final official placings, a special mention goes to Bella, who we believe finished in the top 25 out of 330 Year 7 girls, just narrowly missing out on a top-20 place to represent Sussex.

A huge well done to the entire team — you all did Bexhill Academy proud! We will share the final results as soon as we receive them.

Emma Baker



Bexhill
Academy

UNIFORM



Bexhill
Academy



Uniform Expectations – Start of Term 4 Reminder

As we begin Term 4, we kindly remind all parents and carers to ensure that students arrive at school in the correct uniform each day. Uniform checks will take place daily, and students who do not meet expectations will receive an appropriate sanction.

Uniform Requirements

- Shirts: Blue (Years 7, 8 & 9) / White (Years 10 & 11)
- Tie: Year-specific colour
- Blazer: Bexhill Academy Blazer (mandatory)
- Jumper: Optional
- Bottoms: Academy Skirt with compulsory tights / Navy Culottes / Navy Trousers / Navy Shorts
- Shoes: Black, polishable (no trainers or branded footwear)
- Summer Option (Terms 5 & 6 only): White Polo Shirt

Branded uniform items can be purchased from Superstitch in Hastings. For full uniform guidelines, please visit the Bexhill Academy website.

Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining our high standards.



Bexhill
Academy

FOOTBALL CLUB



Bexhill
Academy



Football Club saw a brilliant turnout this week, with lots of students getting involved and making the most of the opportunity to develop their skills. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, perfect for some competitive and enjoyable football.

There were some excellent performances on the pitch, with great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship on display. It was fantastic to see so many students taking part and showing their passion for the game.

A big thank you to everyone who attended – we look forward to seeing even more students at the next session.

Alex Humphrey



Bexhill
Academy

STEM CLUB

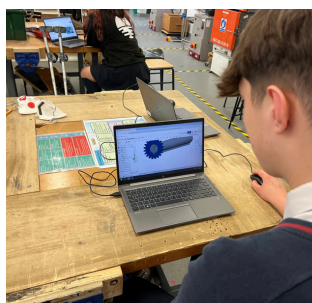
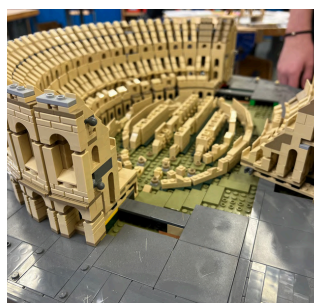


Bexhill
Academy



STEM Club – Innovation and Hands-On Learning

Our STEM Club continues to offer students exciting opportunities to develop problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork. Recently, students have been involved in a range of practical and technical projects..



STEM Club is a great opportunity for students to explore new ideas, gain practical experience, and collaborate on exciting projects. We encourage anyone with an interest in STEM to get involved.

Erica Kybett



Bexhill
Academy



Sleep

Mobile data suggests Brits are embracing earlier bedtimes

A subtle but powerful wellness shift is sweeping across Britain, as new data reveals a nationwide preference toward earlier bedtimes and morning starts.

The trend, observed thanks to Virgin Media O2's network activity patterns, suggests that Britons are increasingly prioritising their wellbeing through altered sleep habits.

Virgin Media O2 broadband data suggests we are now going to bed 20 minutes earlier than in previous years, with network traffic consistently starting to drop off from 9.20pm. In comparison, 2020 traffic shows Brits going offline from 9.40pm.

The recent data shows that the nation is rising earlier too; 2024 morning broadband traffic began to rise rapidly from 6.20am, which is 15 minutes earlier than in 2020.





Brits are also taking control of their wellbeing through meditation, perhaps to counteract the stress of being connected to the 24-hour news cycle.

More than a third of Brits say the news is negatively impacting their mental health, but 44% have increased their mindfulness practices. In fact, almost two thirds (62%) have used their mobile phone to access mindfulness apps, and this figure rose to 88% for 18 to 24-year-olds.

As Britain embraces this collective move towards better sleep habits and regular meditation, perhaps a new dawn is breaking – one where technology and wellbeing work in harmony, helping to create a more mindful and happier nation, ready to face whatever challenges tomorrow may bring.

Writing | Fiona Fletcher Reid

happiful.com | Issue 95 | 9

Vicky Ransom

DIVERSITY



Bexhill
Academy

At Bexhill Academy, diversity is more than just a buzzword — it's a vibrant tapestry that enriches the lives of students and staff alike.

Walking through The Atrium, one can hear a symphony of languages, see a kaleidoscope of cultural images, and witness a blend of traditions from around the world.

Our school prides itself on fostering an inclusive environment where every student and member of staff feels valued and respected. This commitment to diversity is evident in our curriculum, which includes multicultural education, and in our extracurricular activities, such as Reading Week, our Summer School and our Diversity Celebration Weeks.

These initiatives provide students with opportunities to share their unique backgrounds and learn from one another.



Bexhill
Academy

DIVERSITY



Bexhill
Academy

One of the highlights of this year will be the Diversity Day celebration. This event will showcase the rich cultural heritage of our student body through music, dance, food, and art.

Students and teachers can come together to celebrate their differences and find common ground, creating a sense of unity and belonging.

At Bexhill Academy, we believe that diversity is our strength. By embracing and celebrating our differences, we prepare our students to become compassionate, open-minded global citizens.

Our diverse community is a testament to the power of inclusion and the beauty of a multicultural society.

In our next article we will look at exploring and celebrating the different languages spoken by staff and students at the academy.

Trudy Hillman



Bexhill
Academy

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK



Bexhill
Academy



Next week, Bexhill Academy will be taking part in National Careers Week, a key event designed to help students explore future career options. Through a series of activities, students will reflect on their skills and interests, learn about qualifications, and discover different career pathways.

How You Can Get Involved

We encourage parents and carers to discuss careers at home. Students will bring home a parent worksheet with questions about your career journey, the skills you use, and any advice you would give your younger self. These conversations provide valuable real-world insights and help students think about their own future.

Supporting Careers Education

Careers education plays a vital role in preparing students for their next steps. If you would be willing to support our programme – whether through talks, mentoring, or work experience opportunities – please get in touch.

Thank you for your support in helping our students explore their futures.

Lee Starkey
Careers Lead, Bexhill Academy

Year 10 Art – Papier Mâché Fruit & Vegetable Sculptures

With February's grey skies, it's refreshing to see a splash of bright colours in the Art Department!

Our Year 10 Art students have recently completed a fantastic project, creating papier-mâché fruits and vegetables.

To bring their sculptures to life, they carefully studied real produce, making detailed drawings and taking photographs before crafting scaled-up versions of their chosen fruit or vegetable.

The students used a variety of materials—including paint, glue, wool, pasta, and even sesame seeds to replicate the intricate details, such as the tiny seeds on a strawberry. Their dedication and attention to detail have resulted in sculptures that look almost good enough to eat!

Sharon Hall



SAFEGUARDING



Bexhill
Academy



Personal Safety – Knife Crime Awareness

Recent news reports have highlighted concerns around knife crime, which can be understandably worrying for both parents and students. While Sussex remains a safe place to live, Sussex Police continue to work proactively with schools and other organisations to help keep our community safe and feeling secure.

- Understanding Knife Crime
- Knife crime includes any offence involving a knife or sharp object, such as:
 - Carrying a knife without a valid reason
 - Owning a banned knife
 - Attempting to buy a knife if under 18
 - Using a knife to threaten, injure, or fatally harm someone



Bexhill
Academy

SAFEGUARDING

An offensive weapon is defined under the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 as any item made or adapted to cause harm. It is also important to note that pepper spray is illegal in the UK, classified as a firearm under the Firearms Act 1968. Carrying a weapon for self-defence is not a valid reason in law and could have serious legal and personal consequences.

The Law on Knives in England

It is illegal to:

- Sell a knife to anyone under 18 (except a folding blade under 3 inches)
- Carry a knife in public without a valid reason
- Carry, buy, or sell a banned knife
- Use a knife in a threatening way, even if legal to own

The police have the authority to stop and search anyone suspected of carrying a knife. The maximum penalty for carrying a knife unlawfully is four years in prison and an unlimited fine. If you are present when someone else uses a knife, you could also face serious legal consequences.

Educating Our Students

At Bexhill Academy, we are committed to educating our students about the dangers and consequences of knife crime. Through PSHE lessons, we work closely with Sussex Police to challenge myths and misconceptions about carrying knives, helping young people make safer choices.

SAFEGUARDING



Bexhill
Academy

Talking to Your Child About Knife Crime

We encourage parents and carers to have open conversations with their children about knife crime and the risks involved. Here are some tips to start the discussion:

- Choose a comfortable time and place to talk.
- Reassure them they can be honest with you without fear of judgment.
- Encourage them to share their worries — many young people carry knives out of fear, not intent.
- Emphasise that carrying a knife increases their risk of being harmed.
- Share your concerns openly; this can help them open up too.
- Remind them that most young people do not carry knives, and a knife does not offer protection.
- Discuss the life-changing consequences— legal trouble, travel restrictions, lost opportunities, or worse, the loss of life.



Bexhill
Academy

SAFEGUARDING



Bexhill
Academy



Snitching vs. Reporting

Many young people fear being labelled a "snitch" if they report concerns. However, reporting crime is about keeping themselves and others safe. If a young person is worried about reporting a crime, they can do so completely anonymously through Fearless, a service from the charity Crimestoppers:

- [Fearless Website](#)
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Fearless is not the police — no one will know who made the report, and they will not be contacted afterward.

Reporting Concerns to Bexhill Academy

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please report them via MyVoice using the link below:

Report a Safeguarding Concern

Thank you for working with us to keep our young people safe

Debbie Holter
Safeguarding Lead, Bexhill Academy



Bexhill
Academy

MUSIC LESSONS



Bexhill
Academy



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!



Bexhill
Academy

WORLD BOOK DAY



Bexhill
Academy



Bexhill Academy

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

WORLD BOOK DAY

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

 **READ MORE**



1

MY TYPE ON PAPER

MONDAY

Activity - My 'Type on Paper' (what reading suits you?)

Location - Library

When - Break 2 and reading lessons

buzzing with life

2

GET CAUGHT READING

Activity - Be caught reading at any point across the academy and get a reward!

Location - Anywhere!

When - All Day



tuesday



3

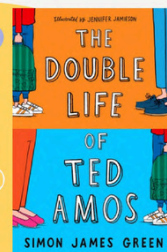
SIMON GREEN - AUTHOR VISIT

Activity - Selected students invited to a workshop with Simon Green.

Location - The Library

When - Period Two

WEDNESDAY



4

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Activity - Students invited to read their short stories with the community

Location - The Library

When - Thursday - 5-6pm



5

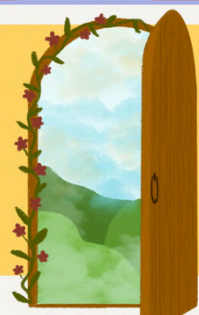
TUTOR DOORS

Activity - Tutor groups designed Diversity in Literature Doors

Location - Tutor Rooms

When - All Week!

friday



BEXHILL ACADEMY CHARTER



Do You Know About the Bexhill Charter?

The Bexhill Charter is an exciting initiative designed to celebrate and recognise every student's hard work, achievements, and personal growth. Whether it's completing a task, overcoming challenges, or demonstrating positive behaviour, the Charter ensures that all efforts are met with praise and recognition.

But the Bexhill Charter is more than just rewards. It's about helping students respect the world around them, develop important life skills, and grow into confident, compassionate individuals who will go on to make a positive difference in society.

As parents and carers, you play a key role in supporting your child's journey. The Bexhill Charter is all about empowering them to be the best version of themselves and shaping a future generation of thoughtful, responsible leaders.

Encourage your child to get involved and embrace the opportunities the Charter offers. Together, we can help them reach their full potential and thrive!

Find out more and get involved today:

Ben Eldridge

ben.eldridge@bexhillacademy.org



SAVE THE DATE



Bexhill
Academy



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



Bexhill
Academy

DID YOU KNOW WE ARE HIRING?



Bexhill
Academy



Join Our Team – Exciting Opportunities at Bexhill Academy

Bexhill Academy is seeking passionate and dedicated professionals to join our team. We are committed to providing an excellent education for our students and are looking for individuals who share our values of ambition, inclusivity, and support.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Teacher of Maths
- English KS3 Lead
- Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)
- Teacher of Science
- Invigilator
- Teaching Assistant
- Autism Facility Lead (Maternity Cover)
- CONNECT Behaviour Support Worker

These roles offer an opportunity to make a real difference in students' lives, working within a supportive and forward-thinking team.

If you are passionate about education and would like to join our academy, we would love to hear from you. For more information and to apply, please visit our [website](#).



Bexhill
Academy

DATES



Bexhill
Academy

Term 4 – Dates for Your Diary

- Wednesday 6 March – Choir Performance at the Hastings Music Festival
- Wednesday 12 March – Year 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 20 March – Year 9 Option Form Return
- Friday 21 March & Monday 24 March – Year 11 Geology Trip
- Wednesday 27 March – 1066 Book Awards
- Tuesday 1 April – Year 9 Vaccinations
- Wednesday 3 April – Brighton University Visit
- Thursday 3 April – Year 10 Paris Trip
- Wednesday 3 – Sunday 7 April – Paris Residential
- Wednesday 23 April – Year 7 Parents' Evening

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



Bexhill
Academy