

Bredon Hill Academy

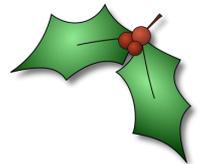
Learning Together for Success



Autumn Term 2024

A message from the Headteacher...

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, which gives an overview of some of the events that have taken place during the autumn term. As you will read, pupils and staff have been very busy since September.



Our school motto, 'Learning Together for Success' is at the heart of what we do. 'Learning' and 'Success' are important to us but equally important is the word 'Together'. Our school community helps to make our school the special place it is and we do value everyone connected to BHA. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for your ongoing support.

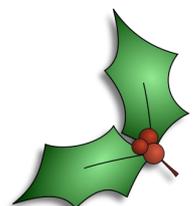
The building of the new school library in our gardens is on track and should be completed by the end of January. This will provide a wonderful resource area and we are looking forward to the formal opening early in the summer term.

At the end of this term, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Jessop, our Deputy Headteacher. We have included a little article about her in this edition. From January, Mr Horton will become our new Deputy Headteacher with a responsibility for our curriculum and teaching and learning. Mrs Bartlett will become an Assistant Headteacher looking after assessment and reporting. Mrs Phillips will take over as Head of Key Stage 3 English. Mrs Maurice will be joining the English department.

We are back in school on Monday 5th January 2025, which will be a 'Blue' week. Please visit the [curriculum pages](#) on our website to see what your child will be studying in each subject next term.

In the meantime, on behalf of all of the staff and governors at BHA, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a lovely holiday.

Debbie West



Key Dates

Start of Spring Term	Monday 5th January—BLUE WEEK
Year 7 Parents' Evening (X Side)	Wednesday 22nd January (3:30pm—6:30pm)
Year 7 Parents' Evening (Y Side)	Wednesday 29th January (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Year 6 SATs Parents/Carers Information Evening	Wednesday 12th February 2023 (5:30pm-6:30pm)
Half Term	Monday 16th February—Friday 20th February
Year 6 Parents' Evening (X Side)	Wednesday 5th March (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (Y Side)	Wednesday 12th March (3:30pm– 6:30pm)
Year 7 French Trip	Monday 24th March—Friday 28th March
Practice SATs Week	Monday 31st March—Thursday 3rd April
Year 7 Compton Verney Trip (X Side)	Monday 7th April
Year 7 Compton Verney Trip (Y Side)	Thursday 10th April
End of Spring Term	Thursday 10th April
Staff Training Day	Friday 11th April—school closed to pupils



Don't forget to keep up to date on all things BHA online!

Visit the MCAS website regularly for up to date information on your child's achievements and assessments, as well as other key information.

Follow @BredonHAcademy for X and Facebook updates.

Festive Fun!



We've been fully getting into the festive spirit at Bredon Hill Academy over the course of the final couple of weeks of this long and productive term.

Our ever-popular traditional Christmas Lunch was served last Thursday at the same time as raising funds for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day. It was lovely to have the whole of each year group in the hall in three different sittings and for our pupils to eat and talk together with some classic Christmas tunes in the background.

We've congratulated a host of hard-working pupils with individual achievements from planner awards to subject commendations in celebration assemblies, along with a festive sing-a-long and great solo performances from Rory H and Eirylys W in year 8. Additionally, 80% of our school community have been awarded 'Zero Hero' status for the term, receiving a certificate and early morning sweet treat for consistently meeting our high expectations and going across the whole term without receiving a sanction. The challenge is now on to see if these pupils can continue across the whole of the academic year in this way. All of our Zero Heroes can look for their names on our Rewards Trees in the school corridor. With the inclusion of our reading challenge certificates, our pupils have accumulated well over 1000 certificates between them this week alone!



Things got competitive on the final day with our traditional form-based whole-school Christmas quiz led by Miss Lloyd and Mrs Dunkley, with the round on guessing the staff pets proving to be particularly popular. Finally, a Christmas isn't complete until the BHA staff perform our own unique take on a pantomime. This year saw children being entertained through Jack and the Beanstalk, featuring Mr Bailey and Mr Pearce as Jack's overbearing and interestingly-attired Mums.



BHA Community

It's great to see Bredon's commitment to community spirit once again this term across the whole school and our families. Highlights have included:

- A car boot full of goodies making their way to the Ukraine as part of the Teams4U shoebox appeal
- Raising over £400 for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day
- Raising over £100 for the Royal British Legion through poppy sales.
- Raising over £450 for Young Minds through 'Hello Yellow Day'
- Raising a massive £3500 for books for our new school library
- Collecting significant quantities of much needed food and toiletries to support the Caring Hands Evesham foodbank.
- Three pupils in year 8: Georgia S, Jorja F and Jasper M taking part in the Education Nature Park project alongside Miss Bankes. The programme is virtual and also includes two visits to the National History Museum. Our school has been selected alongside a handful of others from over 4000 members for our commitment to support the environment and support sustainability in order to improve biodiversity and tackle climate change.





Personal Development and Taskmaster

As part of our commitment to providing fantastic personal development opportunities to all our pupils, we're proud to offer a wide range of lunchtime clubs and after school activities. Well over 85% of our pupils regularly engage with our numerous clubs, using these chances to consolidate their learning, try something different and forge new friendships. From curriculum enhancing clubs like Turing Tumbles or French Club to Gardening and Fossil Club, there really is something for everyone.

Following the popularity of our Taskmaster week of challenges for Children's Mental Health Week, we have now introduced half-termly challenges for tutor groups to tackle. Similar to the popular Channel 4 show, Taskmaster Challenges encourage team work, collaboration and using metacognitive strategies to consider alternative ideas and solutions. Most importantly, the pupils love them! So far, pupils have been tasked with creating a landmark using only natural items and 'having the most fun'.



Science Updates



Science curriculum - We have been focusing on developing more careers links in science lessons during this term. Pupils in different year groups have found out about careers from being a paramedic, medical research analyst, various engineers, dietitian and many more. We hope that showing a variety of opportunities will enhance the relevance of science lessons and inspire pupils with the opportunities on offer.

STEM Club - We have two new STEM Ambassadors from year 8, Lotte and Marcel. They have supported others during STEM club and encouraged others to 'have a go'. We have completed many activities, including, pond dipping (where the teachers were impressed with the variety of invertebrates in the school pond),



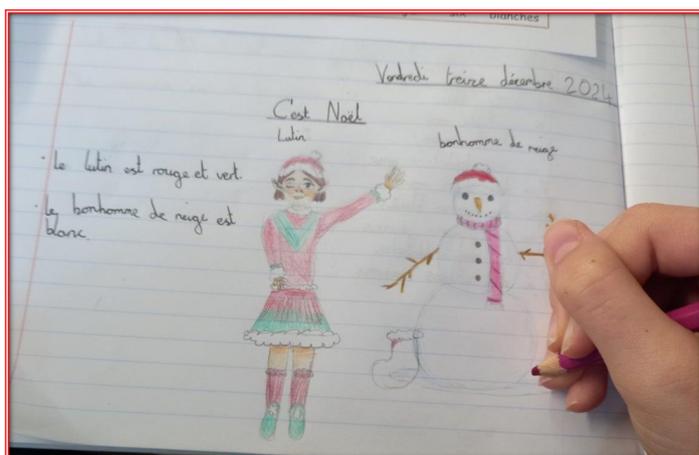
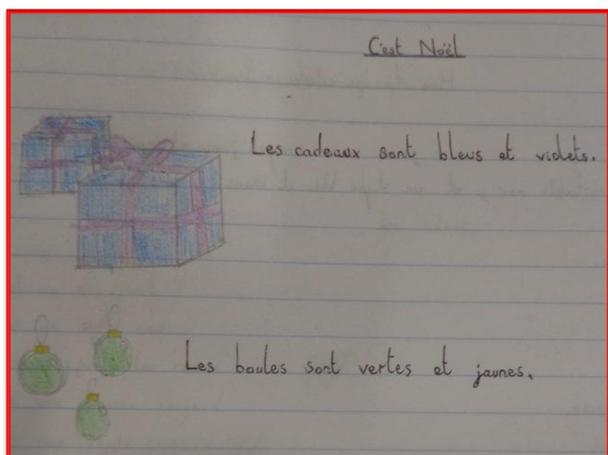
making balancing birds, making convection snakes and cup catapults. Next term we are thinking about making trebuchets among other opportunities. STEM club runs during the first half of Tuesday lunchtimes.

STEM Enrichment - 8C and 8H have completed a wind turbine challenge during STEM Enrichment. The challenge asks pupils to consider those who do not have access to electricity and how the use of renewable sources can help the communities. Pupils then get into groups and work collaboratively to design and make a wind turbine. The groups also need to produce a three minute presentation about their wind turbine at the end of the project before being assessed on whose wind turbine can lift the greatest mass and whose presentation is voted the best, based on the given criteria. Mrs Huntly has been very impressed with the responses so far!



French Updates

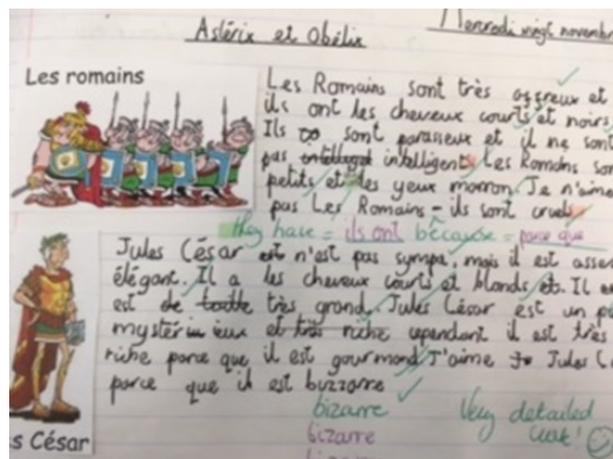
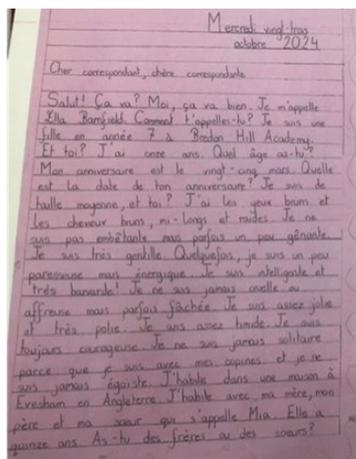
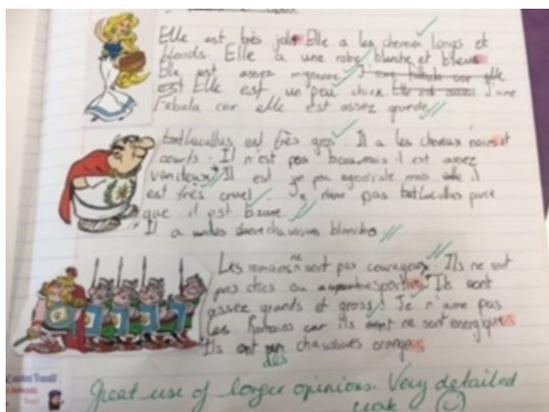
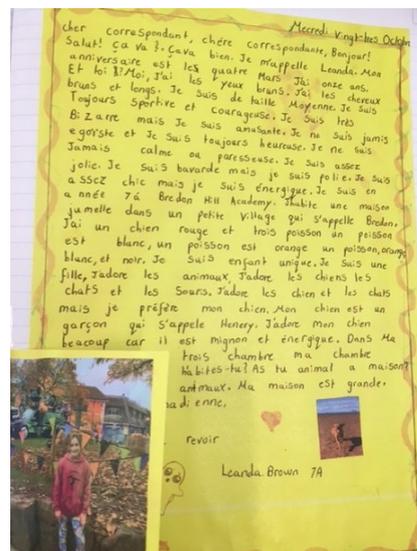
Et voilà déjà la fin du premier trimestre!



Once again, we are very pleased with the engagement and the progress made by our pupils on their French language journey. This term, pupils in year 6 have developed the basics in French, ensuring that they can express themselves in full sentences. It's lovely to see them getting excited about having a conversation in French! They have also focused on key grammar points, understanding how to build sentences and how these can differ from or be similar to English.

Year 7 pupils have enjoyed using a wide range of adjectives and the key verbs être and avoir to write detailed descriptions. They wrote descriptions of themselves in their first penpal letters and of the different characters of Astérix and Obélix comics. This year again, we

are continuing our penpal exchange with our partner school in France: le collège Mauboussin in Mamers. All year 7 pupils have written their first letter and will receive replies shortly.

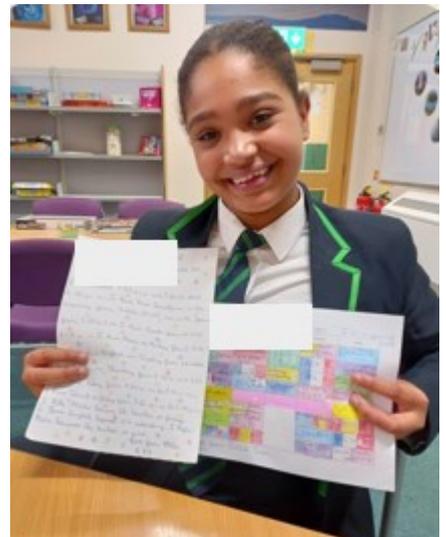
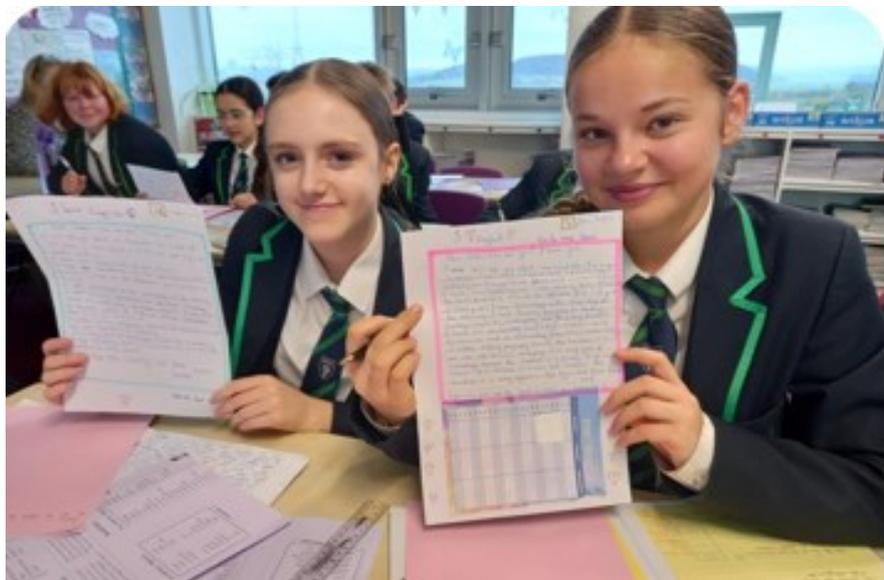
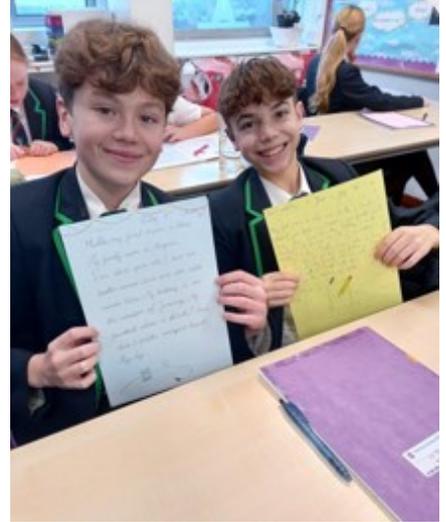


Year 8 pupils have developed their cultural understanding of the school system in France. They have received letters from their penpals describing their typical school day and are now writing their own, using a range of verbs in the present tense, expressing detailed opinions about their school subjects. They are also using key verbs in the near future tense to describe what they are going to do next year.



Finally, we are really excited that we will be taking 66 year 7 pupils to France in March 2024. We will be visiting our partner school and spending the day with our penpals, developing our French language and communication skills. We will also be visiting the medieval castle of Fougères and the Mont-Saint-Michel. Finally, we will be going to the market of Alençon. You will be able to follow this trip on our social media platforms and see photos in the next newsletter!

Joyeux Noël et bonne année!



Madame Amzallag



Computing Updates



Year 8 Girls took part in the National Cyber First Competition run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) this term. The CyberFirst concentrates puts education at the heart of everything it sets out to achieve, aiming to promote awareness of Cyber Security and inspire girls to consider a career in the sector. There are various entry routes, at post sixteen, direct employment after A Levels, or paid degree apprenticeships.

Around one thousand secondary schools take part in the competition each year. Students complete a diverse range of challenges in Cyber Security, Coding and Logic, Networks and Cryptography.

Bredon Hill Academy entered sixteen teams, with three or four girls in each team. Students made use of lessons, lunchtimes and time at home to complete challenges of varying degrees of difficulty. Five teams posted scores of more than five hundred points. Most of the challenges were worth between ten and twenty points. Two teams passed the one-thousand-point mark (1,300 and 1,485) during the nine days of competition.

A special mention in particular to three students, Ophelia H, Lottie K and Tia K, for achieving their incredible individual scores, helping to propel their respective teams to the top three of those entered by BHA. Congratulations to all of our participating teams.

Year 7 girls are already asking when they can enter next year's competition!



English Updates

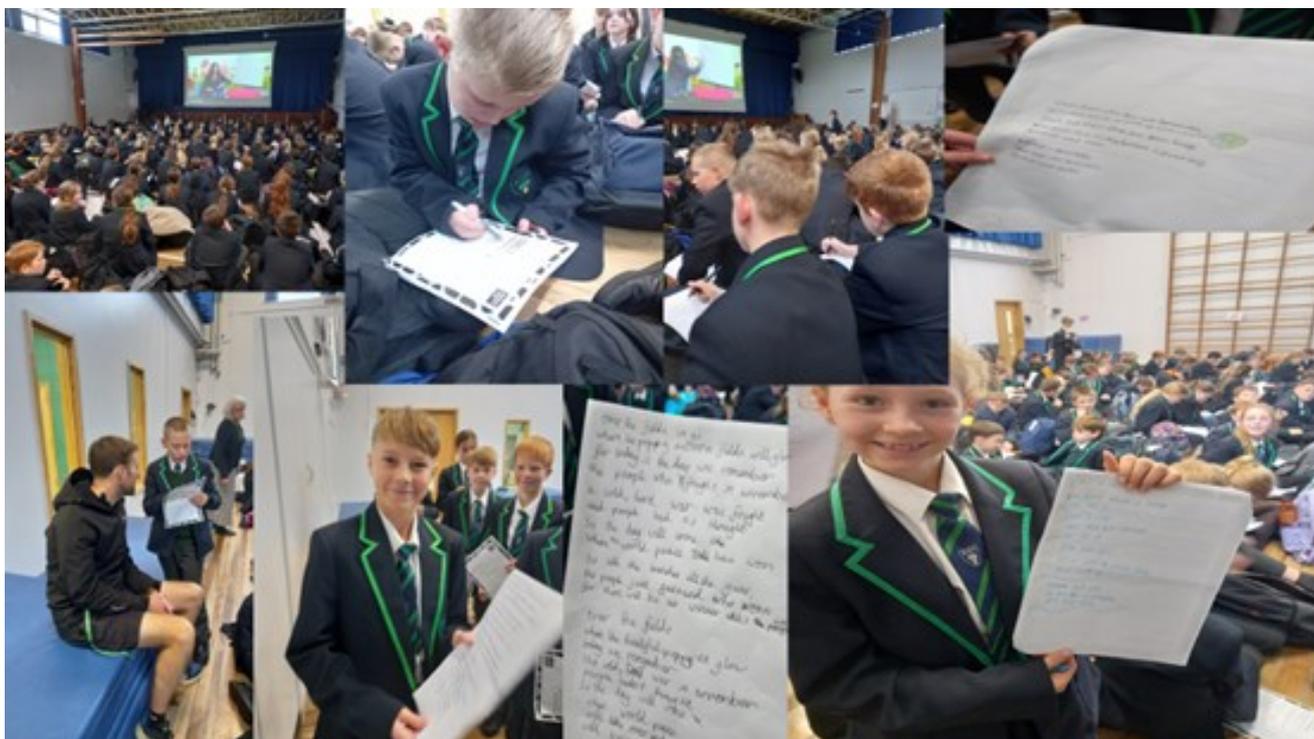
This term has been a busy and text-rich one. Students have been actively learning in English. Each day we see students showing their Academy values of belief, honesty and aspiration. We truly have been 'Learning Together for Success'. We are remembering more, knowing more and doing more.

We welcomed our new year six cohort with the novel by Ross Welford 'Time Travelling with a Hamster'. The year six theme for the year is 'Journeys'. We all enjoyed following Albert Einstein Hawking Chaudhury's journey to 1984 as the students started their new journey at Bredon Hill Academy in 2024. Along the way, we learnt about resilience, prejudice, perseverance, injustice, memory palaces and how time changes life over forty years. The students developed their retrieval, comprehending, summarising, questioning and inferring skills whilst reading the text.

They all developed their writing skills by writing in Ross Welford's style. In particular, students developed vocabulary choices, sentence structures and knowledge about punctuation choices.

All year six students have been encouraged to think carefully about their personal reading choices and to challenge themselves to read a variety of writers, and ensure they are reading books that are age-appropriate. Amazingly, they have contributed to a super whole school sponsored read. They have also been introduced to Spelling Frame and Year 6 SATs Boot Camp to close gaps and secure Year 6 grammar, punctuation and spelling knowledge and practice.

Year 6 also enjoyed a 'Poems for Remembrance' live event with poet Nikita Gill on Tuesday 1 October.



Year seven were welcomed back after a summer of reading to explore the concept of friendship. They have all studied a modern novel and have been looking at the literary concept created by Joseph Campbell of 'The Hero's Journey'. The year group have been challenged to begin their KS3 curriculum by questioning: how do students use quotes to support their opinions whilst exploring how writers construct continuous texts? The Dragon Projects produced by students during this unit have been creative and have showcased students' progress from KS2. Super learning, year 7. We were very pleased to be able to participate in the Book Buzz initiative again this year; we hope all students enjoyed their gift of a new book to enjoy. If you want more details, please click [here](#).



Year eight learning is based around the concept of 'conflict'. Pupils have all been reading a modern novel 'Five Children on the Western Front' by Kate Saunders. They have been analysing how a writer develops the concept of conflict through an extended text. The cohort were challenged to explore extended metaphors and how thematic strands run through the text. They explored the concept of magic realism. They have been developing their Cornell note-taking skills and their understanding of writers' techniques and endings.

The whole school have experienced our Scholastic Book Fair and the competition to win a book. Congratulations to our winners Liv, Pixie, Aris, Olivia and Jacob. This gave students and teachers the opportunity to see, feel and discuss books. We made £434 and will put our reward points towards new books for our Library. [Scholastic](https://www.scholastic.co.uk) is a great site to use for ideas about reading.

As a community, we have also all raised our reading miles by entering the sponsored read over the week beginning November 18th until November 25th. The sponsored read was in aid of raising funds so that we can stock our new library



with completely new books for all to enjoy. We know reading for pleasure is such an important habit to develop and we want all of our readers to be able to find a book that they can enjoy. We have been made speechless by the total raised. A huge thank you for all who generously donated. We have the wonderful amount of £3,513.69 to spend on our new book stock. Every child who donated £7.99 will get a book plate in a book to commemorate their donation and great reading habit. The new library will be opening officially in May with a special visitor coming to

open it. We can't wait. Mr Horton is especially excited!

We wish you all a restful break and we are looking forward to our Spring learning. For ideas about books, you can set up a free account here: <https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>. Please visit the following sites for more suggestions for every reading ability: [Barrington Stoke](#), [EEF Link](#) and [Book Trust](#). There are reading lists and our Reading Newsletters on our website too.



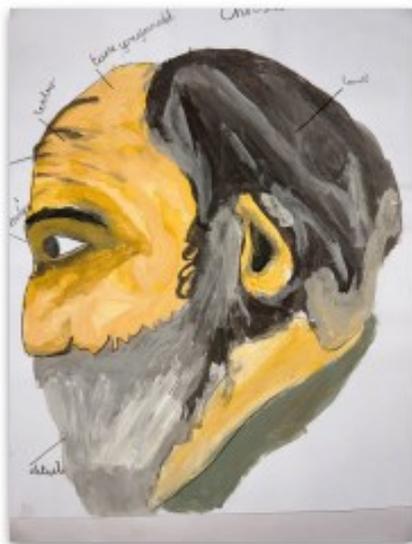
In Art...

Year 6 have been looking at basic skills and considering still life paintings.



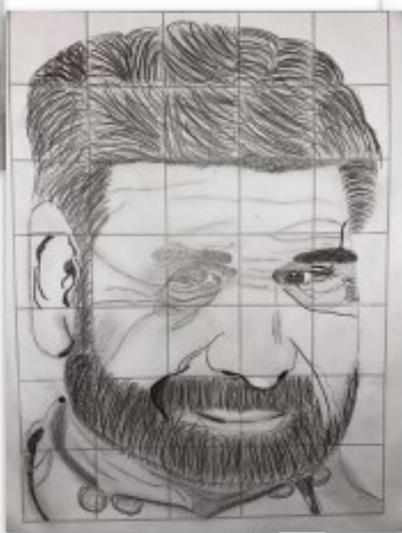


Year 7 pupils have been learning drawing and painting skills in preparation for a landscape painting.



In Art...

Year 8 have been creating realistic portraits of the 'Strictly Come Dancing' Stars.



PSHE and Careers Education

Our PSHE curriculum continues to build the life skills our pupils will need to keep them safe and healthy and prepare themselves for life in modern Britain.

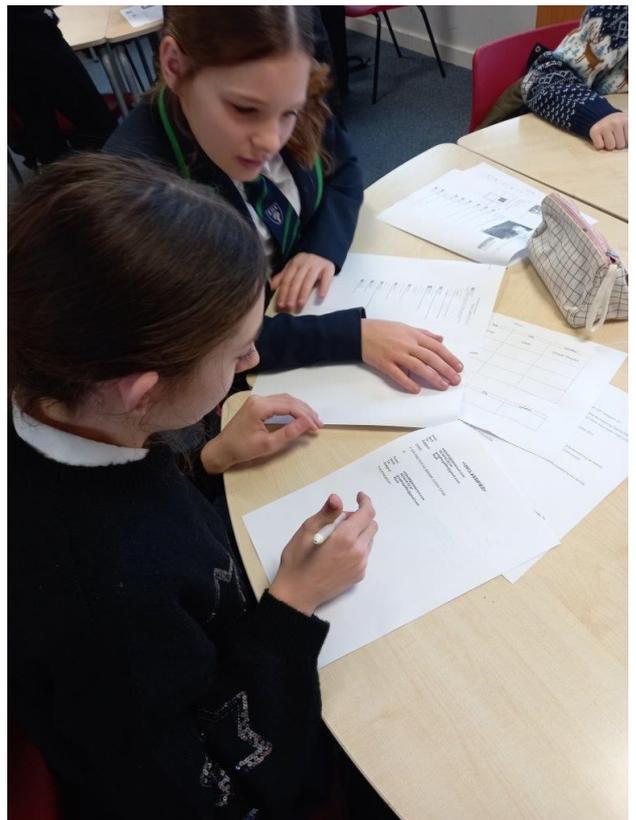
Year 6 pupils began the term with some help in smoothing their transition to BHA. They were learning about time management, setting goals and gaining independence in their study and organisational skills. More recently, year 6 have learnt about friendships and different sorts of bullying. This has been reinforced with our anti-bullying week assembly.

Year 7 began the year learning about skills and qualities needed in their future jobs and careers. Their latest unit of work has focused on the emotional side of puberty, learning about different communication techniques to avoid conflict.

Year 8 followed the Financial Times lesson plans learning about finances: bank accounts, saving and budgeting. Pupils have spent the last term talking about community and belonging. This has dovetailed with a year 8 assembly about diversity and British Values. Learning about the nine 'Protected Characteristics' and the Equality Act have provided a solid framework for pupils to be able to challenge stereotypical thinking and bias.

Our October 'drop down' day provided pupils across the year groups with the opportunity to spend the day learning about drugs, with a focus on 'county lines' for years 7 and 8.

The careers programme at BHA continues to be embedded in various curricula. Some students researched 'green' careers in geography lessons for Green Careers Week in November. Our lunch time STEM club continues to build links with careers in science and pupils enjoyed a talk about careers working with animals from a visiting local veterinary surgeon. Pupils have also had the opportunity in maths and computing lessons to learn more about cyber-related careers and some Year 8 pupils enjoyed a talk given by a GCHQ employee where code-breaking games provided a very entertaining and challenging hour. Bredon Hill Academy welcomes careers-related talks from parents and carers. Please contact the office if you can offer some time in this area.



Music Updates



The music department has been busy this term. In lessons, year 6 have been learning about rhythm patterns, pitch notes and how they are written in music notation. They have been learning to play short melodies using the xylophones and glockenspiels. Year 6 were able to take part in a nationwide singing workshop led by the Royal Opera House, listening to professional singers and being able to perform some of the songs from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* themselves: a great introduction to operatic and orchestral music.

Year 7 have been recapping their knowledge of rhythm, layering different patterns together. Recently, they have been creating new pieces of music, working collaboratively in groups and using different musical elements (such as dynamics, tempo, texture and timbre) to show contrast.

Year 8 focused on African drumming on the djembe before half term. This is a new instrument for many and they enjoyed the loud sound that the drums could create. After half term we have focused on Caribbean music, developing performing skills on the ukulele and keyboards, before working collaboratively in groups to perform 'Yellow Bird'.



The extra-curricular Singers Club had the opportunity to join with Prince Henry's High School Chamber Choir when they visited for a vocal workshop. This was in preparation for an Advent Service, held at All Saints Church, whilst the band focused on preparing for their performances in the Christmas Concert. Here are a couple of pupils describing these events:

Advent Service by Evie D—BHA Singers once again performed in this years Advent Service alongside Prince Henry's Chamber Choir. This amazing privilege of being able to show our singers was the result of the hard work from all the dedicated and talented singers in our school. We performed a solo 'So Many Stars' by Lin Marsh where we sang beautifully. Thank you to the church for this opportunity.

Christmas Concert by Ella B and Lotte K—Our school concert was a great variety of singing, reading and music. Everyone enjoyed the evening. Thank you to Mrs Pilling for organising this opportunity and all of the support from the teachers at BHA.

The Wednesday Club has been popular this year; first with a Drop-In session each week and later with the introduction of Boomwhackers – who knew that plastic tubes could be so much fun! Wednesday Club will return in the next term with two more opportunities.



History Updates

Year 6 have been learning about what history is all about. Chronology has included drawing accurate timelines to a scale exploring the history of McDonalds and creating scenes with anachronisms in, such as the Romans invading Britain with tanks and machine guns! "Using Evidence" has included solving who the mystery skeletons were and what happened to the Tolland Man.

Year 7 have been revisiting the different groups of people who invaded Britain before 1066. Year 7 began examining the Norman invasion with a re-enactment of the battle of Hastings and an exciting trip to Warwick Castle. Sam K of 7 Castle wrote *"Our trip to Warwick Castle was possibly one of the best trips ever! The top of the tower was very exciting because of how brilliant the view was from all the way up there. The mannequins (in the Kingmaker exhibition) were very realistic and it was like you were living in the time. All of it was fascinating. The 'Falconers Quest' bird show was absolutely amazing!"*



Year 8 have been studying crime and punishment through time. They have revisited different British time periods from the Middle Ages to the Victorians to explore how criminals were dealt with and punished. This has included the harsh, cruel (and very gory) punishments of the Middle Ages, such as being hung, drawn and quartered and the more understanding approach used by the Victorians that used prisons and introduced the Metropolitan Police force. Events included so far have been exploring witch trials and how they worked in reality, the Gunpowder Plot and the English Civil War.



Geography Updates

Year 7 having been studying how economies develop and change around the world. We have focused on how items are created from raw materials and are manufactured into finished products to be sold. We have considered the impact of deindustrialisation on the local community and how there is a shift to green careers to aid with sustainability of natural resources.

SADDLES



Primary

It all starts at the live stock farm where the cows are raised until it is old enough to be slaughtered.



Tertiary

After the saddle is complete it is delivered to the customer or the tack shop.

Quaternary

The companies that make the saddles have lots of people working to find out ways to improve the saddles and make them more efficiently.



Secondary

Next the cow is slaughtered and the hide is removed from the carcass ready for the tanning process where the hide is treated to prevent it from hardening and decaying. The next step is drying, the leather is dried next to give it its texture, consistency and flexibility. One of the final steps of making the leather is dyeing, the leather is dyed to enhance its appearance. Then finally the leather is coated with something to preserve it, for a saddle its coated in a layer of laminate.

Making the saddle - then a mould is made specially for the horse and rider then it is checked to make sure it's symmetrical, then the leather is cut to the right size and shape and sewn together.

Detailed, beautifully presented work. (HP) What else might happen in the quaternary sector?

Finally, we have spent time looking at the Nissan Sunderland car plant and how its innovative manufacturing techniques are protecting jobs in the North East whilst researching and developing new methods of car manufacturing that are environmentally friendly.

House Points

Well done to all our pupils for their high levels of engagement, participation and achievement this term. A significant number of pupils have already achieved their bronze certificates, achieving at least 50 house points since the start of September—indeed the average number of house points per pupil at BHA for this term is close to 40, a considerably higher average than at this point last year. We look forward to awarding even more certificates next term! In the overall House competition, it's Castle who narrowly lead the way so far. (House Point totals correct up to 18/12/2024)



Avon	Brook	Castle	Hill	Tower	Vale
3235	2464	3472	3187	3236	3415

Mathematics Updates

TTRockstars Competition

Year 6 have been using TTRockstars to practise their times tables skills this term and we have been very impressed with their engagement and enthusiasm towards improving their accuracy, speed and stamina in this crucial skill.

Half term saw a hard-fought competition between the forms with the top three being announced as follows:

1st: 6 Vale 2548 points (mean)

2nd: 6 Tower 2100 points

3rd: 6 Hill 1044 points

Congratulations to 6 Vale!



Special mention needs to go to Blair S, Rhys C, George P and Mason D who scored over 17000 points each!

Year 6 Christmas Competition!

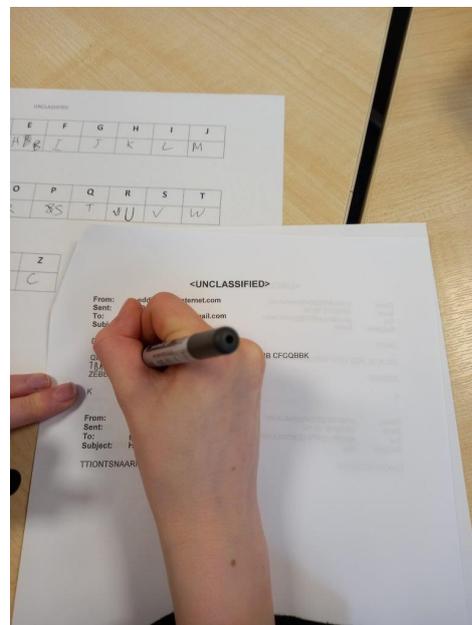
Login to TTRockstars and play any games to take part! Runs until 7pm Tuesday 7th January 2025! We look forward to announcing the winners in the new year—good luck.

GCHQ Christmas Card Competition

We have again enjoyed taking part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge. Several groups of Year 7 and 8 have been enthusiastically trying to decipher the GCHQ Christmas message.

The challenge is contained in a Christmas card sent by the director of GCHQ. It features seven puzzles, which range in difficulty and test different problem-solving skills. Pupils are encouraged to work as a team and reveal a final hidden message.

For anyone interested in taking part in the challenge, further information and the Christmas card can be found [here](#).



In November, as part of Maths Week England, a group of Year 8 girls took part in an online session entitled '@Unlocking the Power of Maths: A Glimpse into GCHQ'.

The session consisted of a variety of female employees of GCHQ giving an insight into their career paths within the organization – we discovered the breadth of opportunities available within the organisation and the qualifications needed for these. Several of the employees appeared as avatars, leading us to believe that they may actually have been spies!



Food Preparation and Nutrition

It's been busy in the cookery room this term. Year 6 have been learning the basics in food from spotting hazards in the kitchen to using an oven safely. Year 7s have been taught to make some classic dishes from scratch, including macaroni cheese and pizza. They have ended the term with baking festive biscuits.

Meanwhile, year 8s have been developing their knowledge of key theory concepts and have been cooking up a storm with cottage pie, soup, Chelsea buns, scone-based pizzas and chicken nuggets and chips from scratch. Christmas bakes included stained glass window biscuits and festive cupcakes.



A fond farewell...

Mrs Jessop joined BHA in September 2005 and from day one, she made a real difference to school life. Her knowledge and understanding of teaching and learning strategies are exceptional and her drive to provide the best educational provision for our children has never ever faltered.

The list of jobs that Mrs Jessop has done is variable and endless. She has run departments, led many whole school initiatives, directed school productions, taken part in school trips to name just a few. She has even worked the 'slushy' machine at lunchtimes – although she did find that rather stressful! She is wonderful at 'soothing' situations and brings a calmness to those around her. Every decision she makes is for the benefit of our pupils.

But most importantly, Mrs Jessop is a wonderful teacher and a truly lovely person. She has touched the hearts of so many of our children; if you have been taught by Mrs Jessop, you will know what a special teacher she is.

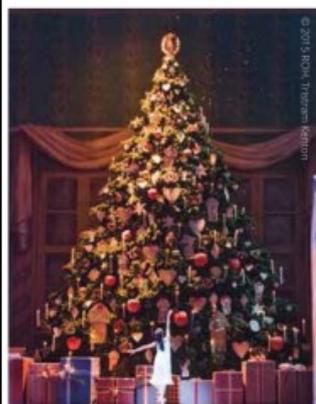
We will all miss her greatly and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Thank you, Mrs Jessop for all that you have done for BHA.



Family Entertainment from Pershore Number 8

For more details and booking information, please visit www.number8.org



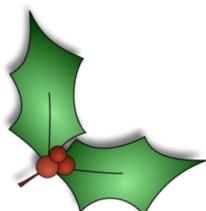
The Nutcracker Recorded at the Royal Ballet & Opera

Discover the enchantment of ballet with this sparkling festive treat for the whole family.

Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets.

Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing.

Saturday 21 December - 7.00pm;
Sunday 22 December - 2.00pm
Tickets: £17, Seniors £16, Child £10
2hrs 45mins (inc. interval)



FILM

www.number8.org

Paddington in Peru (PG)

Another opportunity to enjoy the latest escapades of our favourite marmalade-loving bear. Paddington (voiced by Ben Whishaw) returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into a journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Antonio Banderas, Olivia Colman, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton, and more.

Fri 20 Dec - 7.30pm; Mon 23 Dec - 2.00pm & 7.30pm;
Tue 24 Dec - 11.00am
Dir. Dougal Wilson, 1hr 46mins, ADII



Wicked (cert tbc)

After two decades as one of the most beloved stage musicals, *Wicked*, the untold story of the witches of Oz, comes to the big screen. Tony Award winner Cynthia Erivo stars as Elphaba, a young woman misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, and superstar Ariana Grande stars as Glinda, a privileged and ambitious young woman, yet to discover her true heart. Their adventures in Oz will lead them toward their destinies as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

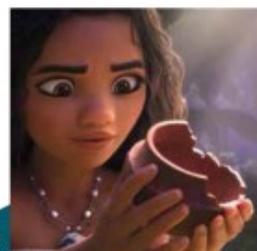
Fri 27 Dec - 2.00pm & 7.30pm; Sat 28 Dec - 7.30pm;
Mon 30 Dec - 11.00am; Thu 2 Jan - 7.30pm (ST)
Dir. Jon M. Chu, 2hrs 41mins



Moana 2 (PG)

Moana and Maui return for an expansive new voyage alongside a crew of unlikely seafarers. After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana must journey to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced.

Sat 28 Dec - 2.00pm; Mon 30 Dec - 2.00pm (RS);
Thu 2 Jan - 11.00am
Dir. David Derrick Jr., Jason Hand & Dana Ledoux Miller,
1hr 40mins, ADII



Physical Education

Mrs Barber and Mr Bristowe, supported by Mrs Washbourne and Miss Paish, have once again had a very busy and successful term of sport and fitness activities and competitive action.



It was fantastic to see the whole school participate in either football or netball as part of our interhouse competitions. Vale swept the board in football across all three year groups, whilst in netball year 6 winners were Tower and Hill were crowned champions in our other two year groups.



Our football teams all continue to do very well and have established great team ethics and positivity, even when faced with challenging weather conditions. A particular highlight was our year 8 boys' recent success in the county cup against St John's Middle School. The team faced the same school last year and a near identical team lost 5-2. This time around, they showed stronger resilience and determination to end up 3-1 winners.



Our netball teams continue to perform exceptionally well—particular credit goes to the year 7 and 8 teams who played TDMS earlier in the month in really stormy conditions and, in a reduced time format, came away comfortable winners. Meanwhile, our year 6 players won four out of their five games in a School Games festival against other local schools early on last month.



Physical Education



In cross-country, the school had 47 runners in the district event held at Prince Henry's High School. Our teams performed incredibly well and eleven of the eighteen podium places available (including four first placed finishes) across the three year groups had Bredon Hill Academy pupils on them. These pupils have now qualified for the next round of events in the spring term.

Rugby clubs are proving to be popular at lunch time across all year groups. Earlier in the term, our year 6 mixed tag rugby team had a great time in a local competition with many of the team experiencing competitive rugby for the first time.



We were incredibly proud of our achievements in the district sports hall athletics competition in November. Competing as boys/girls teams in year groups, each group competed over a series of track and field events and showed great mental resilience to keep working hard, even after competing in multiple events. Overall, our year 6 girls came first and our boys runners-up; year 7 girls came first and boys finished third, whilst year 8 boys and girls both ended up winning their respective events. We look forward to seeing how our teams progress in future rounds against other teams.



A final word on mobile phones...

Although our school is a 'mobile-free zone' for children and this is upheld impeccably, we are very much aware that the vast majority of our pupils own smartphones and dozens of them may have brand new ones in stockings this Christmas. There is an increasing volume of evidence about the long-term damage smartphones have on children—without very careful supervision, they can easily be exposed to a whole host of issues or material that they are too young to comprehend or deal with appropriately, triggering anxiety and other wellbeing issues. The World Health Organisation reported that, from their study in March 2024, one in six teenagers is on the receiving end of cyberbullying and this is on the increase.

The [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) movement has been shared by Mrs Dunkley in this term's safeguarding newsletter and provides an alternative solution to young people's lifestyles. Furthermore, a recent Channel 4 documentary '[Swiped](#)' gives an insight into what happened to a group of year eight pupils when they were challenged to give up their smartphones for three weeks. Although the programme is more suitable for an adult audience, it is an eye-opening show about how reliant our young people, and ourselves, are on mobile technology and how our lives can be enriched without it. '[Swiped](#)' is available to view on-demand through Channel 4.

