

THE BURGESS HILL ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS



University of Brighton
Academies Trust

WELCOME



It is my pleasure to introduce The Burgess Hill Academy: a secondary school where your sons and daughters will be challenged and supported to 'believe in their best' in order to achieve their academic potential.

Having joined the University of Brighton Academies Trust on 1 September 2016, we have had an exciting first year at the Burgess Hill Academy. Our focus will be to maximise the opportunities for support and challenge offered by the trust; working with our partner academies and drawing on the expertise and experience of the university's School of Education.

I am delighted to lead our students, dedicated staff team and wider school community on our journey to become an outstanding school for Burgess Hill.

My focus is on continuous improvement, delivering the highest quality of education, to enable students to develop their talents and fulfil their future ambitions.

I look forward to welcoming you to the academy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Francies'.

Jon Francies
Principal

OUR VISION



**A CENTRE OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE**

**STUDENTS EQUIPPED WITH
SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES FOR
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

OUR CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Relentless focus on improvement: motivating and encouraging our students to maximise their potential.
- Enhancing our learning space to create an inspiring environment for our students.
- Investment in IT to support learning and teaching.
- Ensuring Excellence in the classroom with a consistent approach to teaching across the academy.

**A BELIEF THAT EVERY
LEARNER WILL ACHIEVE THEIR
POTENTIAL AND BEYOND**

**AN OUTSTANDING ACADEMY
FOR THE COMMUNITY OF
BURGESS HILL**



I could not be happier with the quality of teaching and especially the pastoral care that continues day in day out at The Burgess Hill Academy. Every student has a wonderful opportunity to reach their full potential."

Parent

EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

Our aim is for excellence for all, focusing on academic attainment and raising aspirations. It is important to us that we support each student to believe in themselves and to strive to achieve their ambitions, whatever they may be. Our teachers are well qualified, experienced, subject specialists dedicated to bringing out the best in students. With support and challenge from the University of Brighton, our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and expertise for their future success.

KEY STAGE 3

Students in years 7 to 9 follow a curriculum that includes:

| SUBJECT | STUDY ARRANGEMENTS |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">EnglishMathematics | Students are placed in sets according to their ability based on their Key Stage 2 results. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">ScienceModern foreign languages: French and/or SpanishPhysical educationComputing/ICTTechnology | <p>Following an initial assessment period, students are placed in groups based on their ability and competency.</p> <p>In year 7 most students study two foreign languages. Before the end of the year they select which language to continue with in year 8 and 9. Students not studying two languages receive targeted support to improve their performance in other subjects.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">MusicArtHumanities: including history, geography and citizenshipDrama | Students are taught in mixed ability groups. |

CITIZENSHIP

Throughout key stage 3 and in the first year of key stage 4, students follow a citizenship programme to develop their personal understanding of the world and their future.

This subject draws upon philosophical debate and study, religious viewpoints, the new British Values themes as well as key topics relating to personal development and students' ability to move on into adult life, such as career choices, sex and morality, finance and politics.

Careers education is also an important element: students meet people representing a wide range of occupations and professional services. Further and higher education options are also explored so that students are aware of all the possibilities available to them.

KEY STAGE 4

All students follow the core curriculum of:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science: students are able to study for separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics or take the two GCSE 'double award' programme.
- Physical education.

GCSE OPTIONS

During year 9 students are guided to choose additional subjects to match their aptitudes and interests, and to allow them to get the best results possible.



Our wide selection of GCSE subjects offer many pathways. Please note this is reviewed annually. All of these subjects result in GCSE qualifications with the exception of those marked * which are Cambridge Nationals.

ART AND DESIGN

BIOLOGY

BUSINESS STUDIES

CHEMISTRY

CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

D&T RESISTANT MATERIALS

D&T TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

DRAMA

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

FRENCH

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE*

IT

MEDIA STUDIES

MUSIC

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICS

PSYCHOLOGY

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPANISH

SPORT STUDIES*

STATISTICS

SPORT

We have excellent sporting facilities, benefitting from expansive grounds, an all-weather pitch and a well-equipped sports hall. Our partnerships with Brighton & Hove Albion, Burgess Hill Rugby Club, Burgess Hill Town Football Club and other local organisations enhance the sporting provision offered to our students.

Students' involvement in sport develops teamwork and leadership skills, as well as qualities of resilience, persistence, and confidence.

Students participate in a wide range of sporting activities: we follow a broad curriculum and offer a diverse range of extra-curricular sporting clubs and activities.

Our major sports are: athletics, basketball, cricket, football, netball and rugby. We also offer: badminton, dance, gymnastics, handball, hockey, rounders, table tennis and tennis.

| ALL STUDENTS | PERCENTAGE OF 5A* TO C INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS |
|---|--|
| The Burgess Hill Academy (formerly Oakmeeds Community College) 2016 | 79% |
| West Sussex 2016 | 65% |
| England 2016 | 59% |

2016/17 SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 9 Boys Football- District Cup Semi-Finalist
- Year 9 Boys Rugby- District Cup Semi-Finalist
- Year 11 Boys Football- District Cup Semi-Finalist

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

We believe in the value of enrichment and offer our students a range of educational visits and experiences to enhance their studies and develop their skills. We have high expectations of all our students. Our teachers are committed to providing challenge in students' learning.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

Our most able students are stretched and challenged through our gifted and talented programme, which aims to develop identified talents through the range of strategies below.

- Extension activities which may include masterclasses at the University of Brighton, Hurstpierpoint College, National Theatre, and instrumental tuition at the Royal College of Music.
- Extracurricular activities.
- Advanced study during classroom activities.
- Accelerated courses to enable early entry for GCSE examinations.
- All teachers are expected to plan for the progress of all students with appropriate challenge for the more able.
- Enrichment events across the curriculum.

CARE AND GUIDANCE

High expectations are at the heart of all our work. We have the following arrangements in place to maximise students' educational and personal development.

- **Form tutors** have daily contact with their group of students so they can keep regular checks on their welfare and academic progress.
- The academy is organised into **year groups**: students take part in social and competitive activities to create positive attitudes and strengthen the identity of these groups.
- We maintain **regular contact with parents** about the academic progress and welfare of students.
- We will also have a dedicated non teaching member of the pastoral team to focus on supporting year 7.

ENRICHMENT

Students benefit from a variety of activities outside the academy, which enhance and enrich their learning. There will be a focus on year 7 enrichment with drop down activities planned throughout the year. Students in year 9 to 11 can participate in the The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. During July, students take part in enrichment days with their year groups.

For example, year 7 enjoy a residential camp at Blacklands Farm near East Grinstead and year 10 students undertake work experience placements.

Throughout the year, subject areas organise fieldwork and day trips to museums, plays and exhibitions. Residential trips also allow students to gain a deeper understanding of their academic studies. Recent trips include The Somme (History), Swanage (Geography), Stratford upon Avon (English) and France (Modern Foreign Languages). Our annual ski trip is also very popular.



Students have the opportunity to access subsidised music tuition and have access to exciting performance at the academy.”

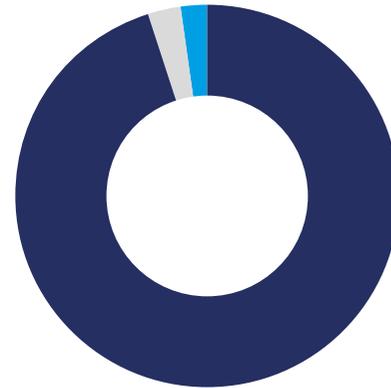
Parent

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Our aim is for all students including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to achieve their very best and become successful, well-rounded individuals.

We believe that all young people should have high quality teaching and access to the curriculum adjusted to meet their individual needs. We have an exciting new SEND structure that puts in more support for vulnerable students. We have a team of SEND staff in place to provide advice and support for staff and working in partnership with parents and carers.

Students are regularly assessed so that SEND can be identified as early as possible, and follow a 'assess, plan, do and review' cycle to ensure individual needs are met.



2016 leavers:
provisional data

- 96.4% of students - further education
- 1.79% of students - apprenticeships
- 2.98% of students - workplace/Army/Emigration

To ensure a smooth transition, we liaise closely with primary schools so that we are aware of students who require additional support and can make appropriate arrangements for their first few days.

Learning Support Assistants, provide support in-class and, where necessary, more intensive support is provided for year 7 students through:

- targeted Action Groups in literacy and numeracy
- 1:1 interventions during tutorial time, including paired reading, spelling, handwriting and organisational skills.

MOVING INTO POST-16

EDUCATION

Led by a dedicated member of staff, students benefit from a programme of support as they prepare to progress into further education or training.

In year 10, citizenship lessons focus on developing ideas and using resources to help students plan for their future.

Then in year 11, students take part in our 'Application to college or work' programme. This includes:

- assembly presentations from Further Education colleges based in East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove; and Higher Education talks from universities
- presentations on finding and applying for apprenticeships
- interviews with an independent careers advisor for all year 11 students to provide advice and guidance about suitable courses
- a Your Futures evening for parents and students to talk to further education and vocational training providers.

EMPLOYABILITY

We promote ongoing success, for whatever career a student chooses. Students develop skills, abilities and attributes in a variety of ways including workshops, visits to companies and exhibitions, extra-curricular programmes, such as 'Code Girls' to attract girls into technology careers, and assemblies from local businesses. Work experience opportunities for students provide an invaluable insight into the world of work.

The Edge is established at the academy. With our first awards ceremony taking place in 2017. PiXL Edge is a framework for secondary schools and sixth form providers to develop and accredit students' attitudes, attributes and skills essential for employability and life. Through a series of accredited tasks and activities (including target-setting and self-reflection) the Edge enables students to systematically enhance their skills. We are part of a national initiative which supports local business to work effectively with schools to provide access to employability skills. We have a burgeoning alumni programme which sees past students returning to the school to work with current students to inspire them for their future success.

Oliver Lashley, a former student who is in his second year at Oxford Brookes University studying English Language and Communication returned to speak to year 10 students about life at university. Students were interested to hear first-hand about the application process, what the first day at university is like, and the extra-curricular activities.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

There are substantial improvements planned for the school including modern IT equipment and a focus on student facilities.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

GETTING TO AND FROM THE ACADEMY

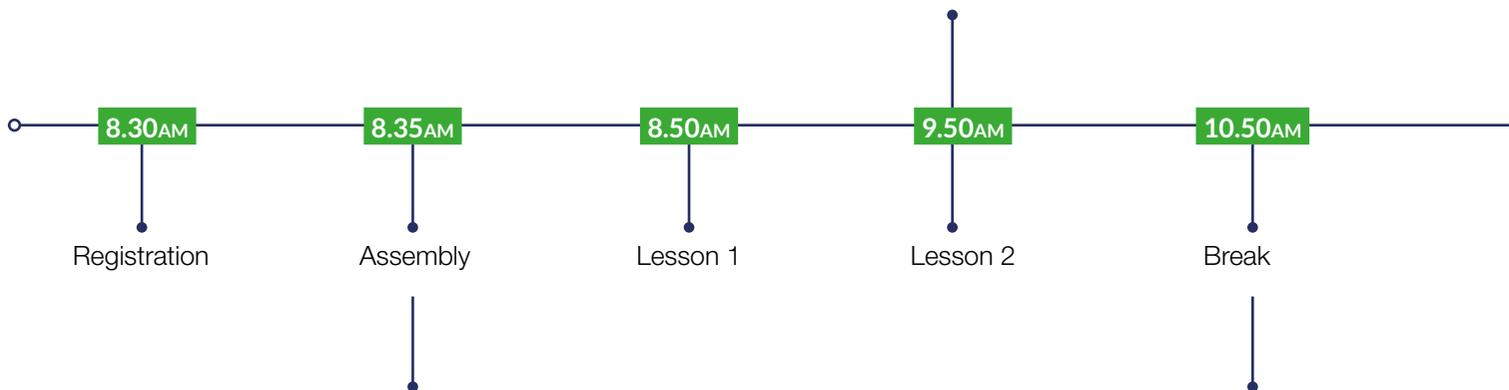
We are situated in the heart of the community and have excellent transport links. There is a mainline train station 5 minutes walk away and excellent bus services to local villages.

Normally, it is the responsibility of parents to get their children to and from school safely; if you believe you may meet the criteria for free school transport, please contact the Transport Co-ordination Group, by phone on 01243 753530 or by post at County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH.



LESSONS

The day is divided into five 60 minute lessons, which may be joined as 'doubles' for some subjects. We work to a 10-day timetable.



ASSEMBLY

Students usually attend one year group or academy assembly per week. Based around a programme of themes that may reflect important spiritual, moral and ethical issues, they are mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Visiting speakers and special assemblies to mark seasonal events are also held throughout the year. For example we were recently visited by ex-Olympic Athlete Abi Oyepitan. Abi will return to work with students as part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport programme.

BREAK

At morning break we serve hot snacks and a selection of filled rolls, wraps and sandwiches.



UNIFORM

Our distinctive, yet straightforward uniform is worn by all students. Clothing and footwear is readily available from local suppliers.

Find out more

www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/students/uniform

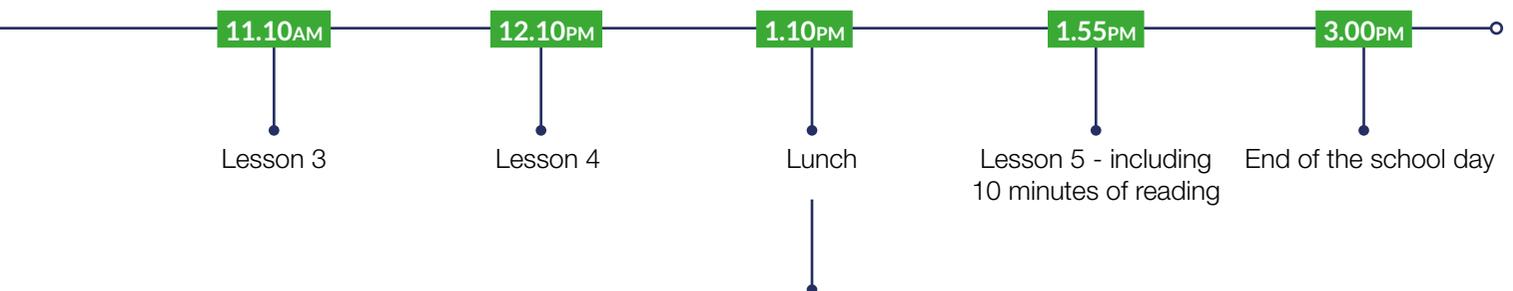
ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Students choose from a wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs and activities, to complement and extend the taught curriculum.

HOMEWORK

Homework plays an important part in students' education: to reinforce classroom learning, and develop the skills and attitudes for successful life-long learning.

Our online 'show my homework' programme gives students and parents easy, 24 hour access - through smartphones and computers. Students have a personalised calendar that prioritises homework and informs them of deadlines and requirements. Staff attach resources to support the work set, and parents and carers can monitor completion of work.



TIME FOR LUNCH

At lunchtime students stay at the academy to refuel for the afternoon. Our popular café is managed in-house. We provide a wide variety of excellent value, good quality, homemade, nutritious food for staff and students. We have a 5* hygiene rating, extremely high standards and follow the National Guidelines for school food.

We use fresh, local produce wherever possible, reduce the use of food additives and preservatives, and provide access to free drinking water.

At lunchtimes, students have a choice of hot main meals, vegetarian choices and jacket potatoes, with a hot 'grab and go' option on different days of the week. Boxed salads, fresh sandwiches, rolls, wraps, fresh fruit salads, yogurts, hot desserts and homemade biscuits are also available.

We use a cashless payment system. Students do not need to bring cash to school and parents can see online how money is spent. Students who qualify for a free school meal are credited with equivalent funds.

Find out more

www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/students/cafe



JOINING US

The Burgess Hill Academy is at the start of an exciting journey towards becoming an outstanding secondary school for our young people. Our induction programme is designed to support students through a time of significant change as they move from primary to secondary school.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

LINKS WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We have regular meetings with local primary schools to gather information and formulate a transition programme that meets students' needs. Students have the opportunity to name friends and we try to ensure that they are placed with at least a couple of friends in their tutor groups.

Our staff also visit local primary schools during the year to introduce themselves to pupils and answer questions. On occasions they are accompanied by former pupils who talk about their experience of moving to secondary school.



I've worked in primary and secondary schools, so I understand the excitement and concerns your sons and daughters may have as the transition to secondary school approaches. I'm proud of the positive difference that our transition programme makes."

Head of year 7



Everyone is very welcoming and the teachers are very nice and helpful. The year 10 were nice as well."

Visiting year 5 pupil

BEFORE YOU START

We run several afternoon sessions for new students throughout the year. Pupils meet peers from other primary schools and our teachers.

In the summer term, students join us to spend a day with their tutor group. Students meet their tutors and other staff, and familiarise themselves with the academy's routines and layout.

For students who we feel need additional support to settle we offer: our buddy system - a current year 7 student will help students to settle in, find their way around and answer any questions; and regular small group visits during the summer term.

SETTLING IN

Our support team mentor students that are struggling to adapt to life in secondary school and closely monitor how students are progressing and offer the appropriate support.

The Haven - a dedicated space for students within our learning development area - and a homework club are available at lunchtimes for year 7 students. There is also an area in the canteen where students can eat their lunch in smaller groups.



Advice for new year 7 students.

- Try at the start of the year to give a good impression of yourself to the teachers.
- Try to be as sensible as possible.
- Get homework done as soon as possible so then you don't get any detentions.
- Look presentable at all times and follow the dress code.
- Pack your bag the night before so you don't forget any books!
- If you have a query about your homework, email your teacher don't wait until the day to hand it in.

Student, year 7



APPLYING FOR A PLACE

The Burgess Hill Academy will consider all applications for places. Our admissions policy, which includes our admissions numbers and over subscription criteria (which are applied when there are more applications than places) is available on our website:

NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

Most pupils join in year 7 and applications for this year group will be made in accordance with West Sussex County Council's coordinated admissions arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by West Sussex County Council's Admissions Team.

A leaflet describing the secondary admissions procedure and application forms are available from West Sussex County Council or online at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions.

You can make your application online or by returning the completed form to the Schools Admissions Team at the county council.

APPLYING FOR A PLACE

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www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/join/admissions

NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

Most pupils join in year 7 and applications for this year group will be made in accordance with West Sussex County Council's coordinated admissions arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by West Sussex County Council's Admissions Team.



My son had a really nice transition. I want to thank all the staff because I am so grateful that he has had a great start. As a mum, to see him settled and doing so well is such a relief!"

Parent

INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON ACADEMIES TRUST



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

The Burgess Hill Academy is part of the University of Brighton Academies Trust's network of 15 infant, primary and secondary academies, located across Sussex and the surrounding areas.

We believe that education transforms lives. Enriched by the University of Brighton's education expertise and our experience working with academy schools for almost 10 years, we want to ensure that our 7, 500 pupils are inspired to meet their potential and develop a passion for life-long learning.

It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their local communities and that parents and carers are actively engaged with their child's learning. We look forward to welcoming your family to The Burgess Hill Academy as we support each other – and your child - to excel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Smith', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr John Smith
Chief Executive
University of Brighton Academies Trust

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON ACADEMIES TRUST

The University of Brighton Academies Trust network of 15 academies in Sussex and the surrounding areas, all support each other – and our pupils - to excel. We are a multi-academy trust and a not-for-profit charitable company limited by guarantee.

The University of Brighton is the trust's sponsor. The university's commitment to improving educational opportunities by supporting academies began in 2008 and led to the university taking the role of lead sponsor in the Hastings Academies Trust (established in 2010).

The University of Brighton Academies Trust was established in 2014 to build on the university's success in Hastings and broaden the work of the trust to Sussex and the surrounding areas.

WE WANT TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

We work collaboratively to achieve excellence for everyone connected to our academies. Our academies support each other to improve by working together. We value our staff and invest in training and development at all stages of careers. It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their communities and that pupils understand the role they can play in the wider world. We also work to ensure parents and carers are actively engaged in their child's learning.

WE VALUE EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY AND INNOVATION

We want excellence for our pupils and their families, our staff, and our academies' communities. We believe that education transforms lives, which is why each of our academies has a rich curriculum to ensure that pupils meet their potential and are inspired to continue learning.

We work with integrity. We recognise the unique character of our academies, and tailor the support we provide to suit each academy and its pupils. We respect all cultures and beliefs, and believe in honesty and openness.

Innovation is key. We constantly strive to improve. Our pupils' experience is enriched by the contribution of University of Brighton and its School of Education. Our school improvement framework is informed by best practice and creative approaches.

Visit: www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk



The two secondary schools in the University of Brighton Academies Trust – The Hastings Academy and The St Leonards Academy – are held in high regard by local students and parents. Both academies are very popular and over-subscribed. In 2016, The St Leonards Academy achieved its best ever GCSE results, placing it in the top 10% of similar schools nationally.



University of Brighton

The University of Brighton is a leading provider of higher education in the south east. It has 21,000 students, 2,600 staff on five campuses across Sussex and runs 500 undergraduate and postgraduate courses including teacher training, medicine, mathematics, computing, engineering and fashion.

Its School of Education has an 'outstanding' rating from Ofsted for all of its early years, primary and secondary teacher training.

As a civic university, its mission is to help build successful communities. It has a strong commitment to the region.

GOVERNANCE

Our governance arrangements are set out by the University of Brighton Academies Trust.

We have a Local Board that contributes to our academy's vision and future strategy. It is responsible for ensuring that our academy maintains strong community links and effective communication with all stakeholders including parents and carers. It is also responsible for monitoring student wellbeing, admissions, complaints and concerns.

Local Boards include individuals from the community, including parent/carers. They are accountable to the trust's Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for determining the trust's strategic direction, including overarching responsibility for the three core functions: the trust's vision; educational performance; and financial performance.

Trustees are also responsible for ensuring compliance with charity and company law and the trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the trust's sponsor and local people with a wide range of expertise.

A SCHOOL FOR THE COMMUNITY

Community engagement and partnership working will be maximised to promote a continuous culture of nurturing creativity for all. We have valued links with the Burgess Hill community including local businesses, other schools, colleges and universities.

BUSINESS LINKS

We value enterprise education and encourage students to develop their entrepreneurial skills through extracurricular activities that are embedded across all areas of the curriculum.

Students can follow courses in ICT and business; subjects that promote the development of relevant skills and learning in financial capability and an understanding of the commercial world.

Our enterprise education programme also helps students to become independent enquirers, creative thinkers, reflective learners, team workers, self-managers and effective participators. Activities include:

- the 'Tenner' Challenge: students work with businesses to invest £10 to maximise profit
- engineering days, supported by Rockwell Collins
- 'Code Girls': a technology based course for girls supported by American Express and Albion in the Community
- Oxford University Roadshow
- Young Leaders in Service, supported by Burgess Hill Lions Club.



You're a credit to our community and a top school, I'm very pleased and proud to have chosen you to educate my children."

Parent



We were delighted to have had the opportunity to visit your GCSE course work exhibition. We were very impressed by the quality of the work produced in all three areas - art, textiles and photography - and could only imagine how many hours of hard work had been put in to produce the wonderful results. It was obvious to us both that the teaching staff were equally proud of the work that had been produced and we are certain there will be some excellent exam results."

Jacqui Landriani, Town Mayor and Mandy Thomas-Atkin, Deputy Town Mayor of Burgess Hill



My son has teachers that believe in him, who listen to my input and his and who want to work with us."

Parent



ENQUIRIES

For further information about The Burgess Hill Academy please take a look at our website and make contact to find out more.

CONTACT DETAILS

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