

## Message from the Headmaster

A couple of notices

Carol Service – it saddens me to say that I think that this will have to be called off this year due to covid restrictions. As it is always a packed church, it is prudent so near the end of the term to minimise the risks, so that boarders can travel home safely. I am sure that they would agree that being stuck at school with me for the holidays with my very limited culinary skills (Edward et al can vouch for this!) would not make a fun start to the festive season.

However, I think the plan of action will be a watered down version at school which will include:

- Carols in the Great Hall 4 – 5pm
- 5pm mince pies and non alcoholic mulled wine and mash mellows in the courtyard for parents and guests
- 5 – 6pm Boarders to get changed into their posh evening attire
- 6 – 6.30pm mince pies and non alcoholic mulled wine and marshmallows in the courtyard for boarders
- 6.30 – 7.30pm formal Dinner for Boarders in the dining room and Hive

Parents who wish to attend please could they RVSP using this [form](#). We would encourage day parents to attend, support and help us with our carol singing.

For staff and boarders it's the usual general orders of a three line whip! (all to attend).

It will not all be bah humbug, as we still propose to have our Christmas market, Christmas balls (this year's theme is 007) and we will be having our traditional Christmas sing along here at the school around the giant tree in Great Hall. Christmas at Buckswood is always so magical – and this year will be no exception. Christmas Ball invites will be sent out soon.

On a more cheerful note, this weekend the boarders put on a fantastic evening's entertainment of 1980's music and on Sunday there was a trip to Brighton, the usual (very popular) early morning pancake making classes and a group of us marched up to the school woods for an inter house paintballing session run by Mr Duncan and Craig. This coming week Upper 6th need to wrap up their UCAS applications and the Christmas trees go up on the 18th. The astro turf should be ready by this time next week so it will be a busy week ahead of us!

## Academic Notices - Mr Shaw

As we enter Week 11, Friday marks the midway point of this half term, this means we are starting to build a focus towards assessment point 2. Please be aware that all students are working towards a period of assessment, where they will receive grades and reports, with the exception of Form 5 (who start the new term with mocks in January). Assessments will be staggered over weeks 13 and 14, to ensure students have enough time to revise and complete tests, and teachers have an appropriate period of time to mark, moderate and feedback. Assessments fit in around normal classroom lessons and learning, which will conclude at 5pm on Friday 10th December. Assessment information will be available to view in the first week of the holidays. More info on our policy for assessment, can be found below.

[Assessment Policy](#)

[Effort Tracker](#)

## News from the Sixth Form

We are absolutely flying through this half term - and though so much is happening each week - it is refreshing to feel a sense of normality. The sixth form students have continued to impress, not only in their attitude to learning but also in their attitude others in the school community. It was so lovely to see certain sixth formers setting an academic example by not only helping form 1 students with their prep but also by attending access time and completing lots of work in the library after hours ... I'm sure all that hard work will pay off, with students like Elizaveta and Edoardo paving the way by applying to top universities.

What a busy week students have had in Business lessons, where they have been studying SWOT analysis - this being the most important tool for all good leaders who are now ready to take on the world. In English, they have been studying how to write blog reviews and, in keeping with the celebration of Remembrance Day, not only have they analysed war poetry, but I have heard some great discussions and debates relating to WW1 and other such conflicts.

In Science, students were busy demonstrating their dissection skills and learning how to identify internal and external anatomical structures of the heart. Messy work! In Chemistry, students have completed organic chemistry and for those keen scientists out there, this involves studying the structure, properties and reactions of organic compounds, which contain carbon in covalent bonding.

In History, students were discussing studying Apartheid, a policy or system of segregation and discrimination on the grounds of race - vital knowledge that will ensure that when our Historians leave Buckswood, they will lead the world in the right direction, just as many (though perhaps not enough) of our world leaders have been leading the way in Glasgow.

Talking of leading the way, following on from COP26, our Geographers have continued to learn about the effects of greenhouse gasses with some great presentations and interesting, hot topic events coming out of this department.

Our creative students were having pottery lessons this week - as well as putting together their own photography portfolios.

Finally, as you can see from the photos, our young adults rounded the week off with lots of fun and games, competing against each other in a paintballing match and playing some tennis, not to mention a select few U6th IB students who came together with Mr Bramley to build a *Smashball* table, a game the students invented themselves as part of their CAS (Creative, Active, Service - an IB Core element).



Our IB Scientists, enjoying their learning

## GCSE news

Form 4 and Form 5  
Please contact [spedgers@buckswood.co.uk](mailto:spedgers@buckswood.co.uk) regarding Form 4 or Form 5 issues.

The form 4 and 5 continue to work hard. This academic year will pass quickly and its vital that they start to revise for their mocks and exams and provide evidence by submitting high quality pieces of work in a timely manner.

For any support in this contact me on teams for hints and tips to achieve exam success. Students can attend access time. They can contact their teachers on teams to arrange this

Buckswood offer numerous subjects in IB and A Level and students and we continue to have an extremely high success rate on these courses

Excellent work submitted led to the following commendations:

- Dylan – Housepoints
- Pedro – Science
- Max keeble – science
- Tiffany – science and club
- Tamera - science and club
- Cristina – boarding house activities
- Komachi – club
- Nono – science

- Magomed – Business studies
- Sebastian – Business studies
- Ana Maria – House points
- Alejandro - - Business studies
- Isabella – Mathematics
- Isabella – mathematics
- Yago- Geography
- Lynn – science
- Sin U – Boarding house activities
- Elie- Mathematics
- Melinda – Boarding House activities
- Clement – Club
- Sophia – Boarding house activities
- Irene Boarding house activities
- Ayanna – mathematics
- Alexander - Mathematics

## News from the Junior School

This week has seen a multitude of activities! Starting off the week, our assembly focussed on anti-bullying week, our motto in the junior school being "one kind word". Several students read out anti bullying poems and all students were encouraged to say kind comments to each other during the week. Well done to all for accomplishing this. In History, form 1 students acted out a Saxon, Roman and Viking play, whilst form 3 focussed on ww1, very topical with Poppy day having just passed! In maths, students thoroughly enjoyed Mr Morris' s Pentomino game. And it was an absolute delight to see one of our sixth form prefects helping some of the younger students in the school with their maths work - how heart-warming, thank you Elizaveta. In cooking club, students make chocolate honeycomb - delicious, of course. Some of the older students in the junior school were talking about gender equality and whether sexism still exists. This was all topped off with a form 2 debate - well done to Tillie for leading the way on this one! Finally, we finished off the week with a philosophical discussion around the reasons that people go to war, with a focus on World War I, with the children questioning whether issues and disagreements could be resolved in a more peaceful way.

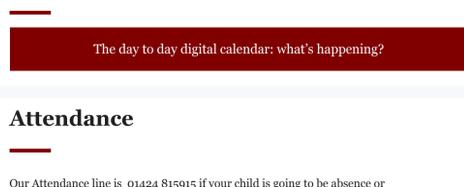
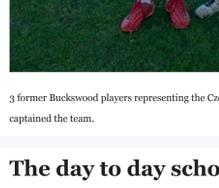
In English and prep time, some of the children produced a piece of Remembrance poetry, thinking about either 11th November or other wars including the Lebanon Civil War - they also drew poppies and a collection of other symbols and artifacts to show their respect. They have written their poems from different perspectives and in a variety of styles, really capturing the emotions of those who lived through World War I and those who look back and remember.

We thank all the soldiers who helped save our country...

Reminders:  
form 3 science assembly trip Wednesday. Parents' evening Tuesday from 5:15pm;  
Christmas market - please return your slips to your form tutor or myself by the end of the week. Thank you for your continued support.

Special mentions:  
Daisy and Lily reading in assembly, both of whom happened to get commendations this week!

Nabeeha sharing sweets and reading in assembly;  
Arthur, Joe and Layan doing readings;  
Berat and Freddie H being kind in 'one kind word'.



## Access time

[Click here to view the access time schedule](#)

## Safeguarding

Buckswood School now has the services of a school counsellor, Anna Honeysett BAHons Msc, she is a Child and Adolescent Psychodynamic Counsellor and Psychotherapist who is available every Friday after half term at the school and will see students by appointment only. There will be a cost for this service. If you would like to make an appointment for your child to see Ms Honeysett please contact the Safeguarding Team ([admin2@buckswood.co.uk](mailto:admin2@buckswood.co.uk)) who will be happy to set this up for you. For more information on Ms Honeysett please see her website

[School counsellor - website - click here](#)

[Anti Bullying Week](#)

## Sport Newsletter

[Sport newsletter - please click here](#)

## NEW: Running club

**BUCKSWOOD FITNESS & RUNNING CLUB**

TRAINING FOR THE HASTINGS HALF MARATHON & UNDER 16 MINI RUN  
SPONSORED BY BUCKSWOOD  
**20.03.2022**  
#BUCKSWOODHALFMARATHON

**MON** • 17:15PM • ROAD RUNNING  
**TUES** • 17:30PM • CIRCUIT TRAINING  
**WEDS** • 17:15PM • ROAD RUNNING  
**FRI** • 17:15PM • CIRCUIT TRAINING

**ROAD RUNS - MEET @ RECEPTION**  
**CIRCUITS - MEET ON ASTRO**  
TO SIGN UP - MESSAGE MISS HELENA COTTAGES ON TEAMS

## Boarding activities



## Weekend activity programme

[Plan ahead: view the weekend activity programme here](#)

## Old Buckswoodian news



3 former Buckswood players representing the Czech Rep U20 against Romania. Sam, Jan and David - Jan captained the team.

## The day to day school diary

[The day to day digital calendar: what's happening?](#)

## Attendance

Our Attendance line is 01424 815915 if your child is going to be absence or email [pa@buckswood.co.uk](mailto:pa@buckswood.co.uk). Any pre-arranged absence should be requested via the absence form in the Forms Section on the school website <https://www.buckswood.co.uk/permissions-forms/>  
If parents need to take their children out of school before the end of the school day, please sign out in Reception.

## Contacts

[Department contact information](#)

## Useful links

[Permission forms](#)

[Curriculum plan and options - click here](#)

[Residential staff information - click here](#)

[Previous newsletters](#)

[Safeguarding & The Wellbeing Hub](#)