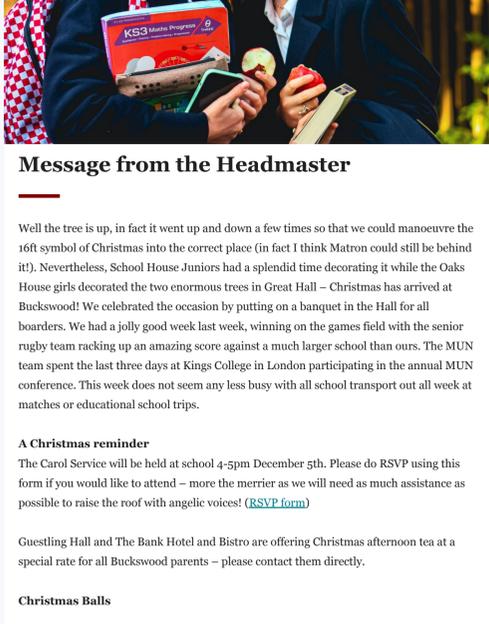


Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Newsletter - Week 12



Message from the Headmaster

Well the tree is up, in fact it went up and down a few times so that we could manoeuvre the 16ft symbol of Christmas into the correct place (in fact I think Matron could still be behind it!). Nevertheless, School House Juniors had a splendid time decorating it while the Oaks House girls decorated the two enormous trees in Great Hall – Christmas has arrived at Buckswood! We celebrated the occasion by putting on a banquet in the Hall for all boarders. We had a jolly good week last week, winning on the games field with the senior rugby team racking up an amazing score against a much larger school than ours. The MUN team spent the last three days at Kings College in London participating in the annual MUN conference. This week does not seem any less busy with all school transport out all week at matches or educational school trips.

A Christmas reminder

The Carol Service will be held at school 4-5pm December 5th. Please do RSVP using this form if you would like to attend – more the merrier as we will need as much assistance as possible to raise the roof with angelic voices! ([RSVP form](#))

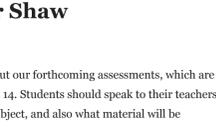
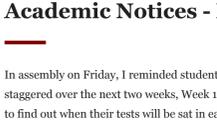
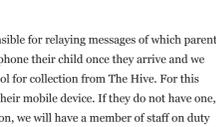
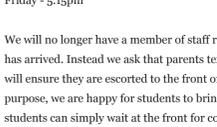
Guestling Hall and The Bank Hotel and Bistro are offering Christmas afternoon tea at a special rate for all Buckswood parents – please contact them directly.

Christmas Balls

Junior school - Monday 6th December
GCSE - Tuesday 7th December
Sixth Form - Wednesday 8th December

All run from 1930-2130.

Boarding activities



Departing from school forms

Boarding student parents, please do not forget to complete your departing from school form as soon as possible. This form includes your taxi booking request & whether a PCR test is required. A link to the departing from school is linked below.

[Departing from school form](#)

Collection times

From tomorrow, Wednesday 24th November, there will be a slight alteration in our collection procedure. Students will be available to collect at the following times, as previously...

Juniors

Mon - Thursday - 4-5pm
Friday - 5pm - so they can attend Assembly

Seniors

Monday - Thursday - 5pm
Friday - 5-15pm

We will no longer have a member of staff responsible for relaying messages of which parent has arrived. Instead we ask that parents text or phone their child once they arrive and we will ensure they are escorted to the front of school for collection from The Hive. For this purpose, we are happy for students to bring in their mobile device. If they do not have one, students can simply wait at the front for collection, we will have a member of staff on duty in this area. We hope this ensures less waiting time for parents and a more efficient system. As ever, please do be careful when driving through the site.

Academic Notices - Mr Shaw

In assembly on Friday, I reminded students about our forthcoming assessments, which are staggered over the next two weeks, Week 13 and 14. Students should speak to their teachers to find out when their tests will be sat in each subject, and also what material will be covered, so they can prepare accordingly. It will be a busy few weeks, with lots of exciting events and activities taking place, but first and foremost there must be a focus on assessment, with the target being to better the grades achieved in Assessment 1. Form 5 (as per the assessment policy) will not have an Assessment, when we return they will sit mocks towards the end of Jan (24th).

Congratulations to students Elizaveta and Shota, who have already received University offers from Queen Mary, Nottingham and SOAS, between them.

Also, well done to Form 5 who continue to top the table for most positive points earned in the school!

[Assessment Policy](#)

[Effort Tracker](#)

News from the Sixth Form

I am pleased to say that Year 12 students have settled into Sixth Form life exceptionally well. Their next challenge is to ensure that they are using their study time wisely, both at school and home or in the boarding house. To help with this, all Year 12 students will receive explicit instructions from their form tutors on what independent proactive study (work in addition to homework) looks like next week. This should help prepare them for the up-and-coming assessments and further on, for the end of year mocks.

Students can also make use of access times for additional tutoring, something the year 13 students have been really capitalising on. The vast majority of our final year students have been focussing on the UCAS process and on developing their personal statements. It is pleasing to see the first wave of UCAS applications being sent, with Elizaveta and Shota already receiving offers. Students are thinking carefully about their chosen courses and have engaged in super-curricular activities with Mr Shaw and myself to help them write strong applications.

With this in mind UKHEX - The United Kingdom Higher Education Expo - highlights Higher Education opportunities and offers information from Universities across the UK. To take advantage of this please:
Register at the link below; this will give you the opportunity to chat with exhibitors via text chat, watch online video content, as well as download useful resources.
- It is recommended that you research exhibitors (universities) that you are interested in ahead of the event to ensure you're prepared with any questions.
- The event is on-demand and available to access for 30 days after the event has taken place. For more information and to register, go to: <https://ukhex.vfairs.com/en/>

This is a great opportunity for Buckswood students not only to receive advice and tips from top universities regarding UCAS applications but also to ask questions and enquire about course content and choices.

This event will take place on UKHEX (UK Higher Education Expo) - 24th November (11:00-18:00)

Here are some other useful UCAS-related web links:

What/where to study - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-where-study>

A great way to find out about university open days is to use the website: <https://www.opendays.com/>

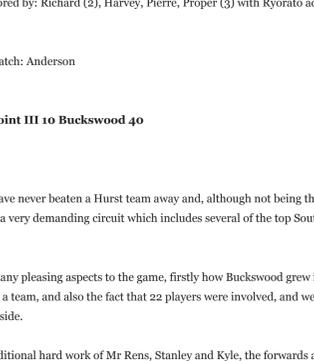
Writing personal statements - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucasundergraduate-personal-statement>

If you require any guidance or advice on how to write a person statement, please email myself (Mr Bramley) or Mr Shaw.

Up-and-coming events:

The Lower 6th are going to the theatre this Weds 24th November - day parents please send an email giving permission if you haven't already done so. I emailed about this last month.

Christmas markets 2nd December - please do get involved by making cakes or donating prizes. These can be given to myself (Mr Bramley).



To recognise the importance of individuality, as part of Anti bullying week, we asked the school to wear odd socks!

GCSE news

Yesterday Form 5 travelled to London St Paul's cathedral followed by a walk over the river Thames to the Royal Festival Hall and the Christmas market accompanied by Mr Markson-Brown and Mrs Rodgers.

GCSE Mocks will be during the week of the 24th January 2020 with additional days for Art and graphics outside this range.

It is imperative that students are prepared for this. Revision links and explanations of GCSE grades can be found in previous newsletters. However if you require any further information please do write to contact me rogers@buckswood.co.uk
Christmas stocking ideas: [large clear pencil case](#), calculator, ruler, maths set, black biro(s) (pack), pencils and a rubber

Uniform

Please ensure that students attend school in the correct smart uniform and of the correct size. Skirts should be knee length. The correct school uniform should be worn to school and from school. If you require any items from the shop then please contact email shop@buckswood.co.uk

Excellent work in form 4 and 5 continues with commendations awarded to the following students:

Impressive writing in French about Cop 26	French	Dylan	Y4
Work in Science	Science	Keiron	Y4
Lead the other girls in preparation for the dance competition. Huge effort and fabulous work!	Boarding House Event	Tiffany	Y4
Consistently excellent work in class and in prep.	Mathematics	Tamara	Tiffany Y4
Designing props for singing performance.	Boarding House Event	Chloe	Y4
Helpful in Boarding house	In Boarding House	Amye	Y5
		Sofia	

News from the Junior School

It's been a busy, bustling and ever so exciting week of hands-on, screens-off, good old-fashioned learning! There's been lots of opportunities for the juniors to sharpen their enquiring minds. Form 3 went on a trip to the science observatory – what a smashing time we had, investigating various aspects of science and making it come to life. Furthermore, form 1 students were given the task of making a Cartesian diver – lots of competition and whoops of 'Eureka!' when finally designing the winning format. Well done to Mathis who was our overall winner – and on his birthday, no less!

Following on from this week's theme of anti-bullying, in the junior school we are going to encourage the spirit of teamwork. Freddie was the winner of our motto of the week – One Kind Word – and he topped this off with a reading in assembly on standing up to bullies. A great example set by one of the older members in the junior school.

With no time to rest, it was straight off the trip coach and out onto the rugby field to compete in an inter-house competition, inspiring the start of our focus on teamwork.

Other highlights this week – some of the juniors helped set up the giant Christmas trees in the Great Hall. Speaking of Christmas, please do send back your form regarding your contributions to the Christmas market.

In Art this week, students were learning how to mix watercolours and In Geography, it was all about slum life. Some of our students also had a go at creating their own model of how fossil fuels are formed! Oh, what a broad and balanced curriculum we have!

Special mentions

Yuuna, Oscar, and Luke - enquiring minds

Lily, Brunas, Finlay, and Lola - teamwork

Zlata and Yulia - Silver award in maths

Mathis and Joe - Scientists of the week

Mohammed, Mattie, Freddie D and Gabriel - Sports
This week has been an extremely busy one - thank you to those students who participated in the anti-bullying celebration by displaying their odd socks.

Thank you also to our school council for coming up with the idea of how to help out the local community - with Hastings being the landing site for many refugees - the council would love it if you could donate any unwanted clothing - they will then distribute these to people who have come so far in the name of safety and who have arrived with only the clothes on their backs. Please give generously.

Access time

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

Safeguarding

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

[Protecting children from bullying and cyber-bullying info](#)

Sport Newsletter

[Sport newsletter - please click here](#)

1st team are buzzing again and juniors impress

Buckswood 46 Bexhill College 26

It feels like a lifetime ago that Buckswood played a home rugby fixture, and it was fitting that it was against local rivals, Bexhill College.

Fixtures against Bexhill are always hard-fought and in these 12 a-side matches, the teams were evenly matched. Bexhill had a clever kicking game and some effective ball-carrying forwards, whilst Buckswood tried to get their pacy wingers into the game.

Despite Bexhill taking the lead 10-13 at one stage, Buckswood fitness and finishing ability saw them 46-26 winners, a score line that didn't reflect how close the game was.

The 1stXV defended strongly and there were some fine passages of play - albeit defensive alignment and clinical finishing inside their own half needs work - but overall, a good performance by the boys, who were without Mani and Tanguy for the game and lost Gerardo early on.

Tries were scored by: Richard (2), Harvey, Pierre, Proper (3) with Ryorato adding the extras.

Man of the match: Anderson

Hurstpierpoint III to Buckswood 40

Buckswood have never beaten a Hurst team away and, although not being their 1st team, Hurst play in a very demanding circuit which includes several of the top SouthEast rugby schools.

There were many pleasing aspects to the game, firstly how Buckswood grew into the game and played as a team, and also the fact that 22 players were involved, and we matched Hurst at 15 a-side.

Under the additional hard work of Mr Rens, Stanley and Kyle, the forwards and backs are playing more as a unit and some of the phase play was a real improvement.

The return of Mani and Tanguy helped, but Harvey and Pierre lead the teams well and Ryorato and Gerardo showed real class throughout. The forward pack impressed again and Anderson, Szymons and Elliot all contributed positively.

Despite the score, Buckswood were locked at 10-10 at one stage, and was superior fitness that proved the difference, along with some effective rucking.

A big thank you to Hurst for a wonderful game and to Mr Rens for coaching and Nigel for driving us up.

The 1st team are really developing, and their recent results have been outstanding; next week is the turn of the U16s who travel to Hurst.

Tries were scored by: Prosper (3) Pierre, Ryorato, Gerardo (2) with Ryorato adding the extra.

Man of the match: Mani.

Finally, a big well done to the juniors who played in a Sutton v Buckswood rugby match, team Sutton won by 5-3 in an entertaining match with Yamen being voted player of the match. The match was a testament to the great work being done by Mr Rens and Harvey and special mentions must go to Mathew, Finley, George, and Freddie for their rugby enthusiasm.

Rugby fixture: 25th Nov - Hurstpierpoint B/C v Buckswood U16 (away) 2pm kick off.

Weekend activity programme

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

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. 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](#)