



Message from the Headmaster

Welcome back everyone. I hope that the holiday period was restful and productive. Firstly, I would like to thank our local day parents who loaded us all up with cakes and all things yummy over the holiday period, those students that stayed at the lions really appreciated it (it made a change from my cooking!!).

It is great to see everyone back to school safely, we had a few hiccups during the first few days as government legislation changed daily – but in good Buckswood spirit we coped, we adapted and we started back to work promptly!

A new year gives us an opportunity to re-affirm our commitments to the school and our students. I have therefore put two large signs outside the front door to help remind us of this each day:

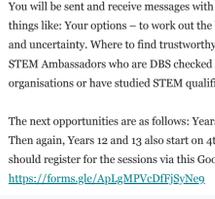
Sign 1: Developing curiosity and confidence will take pupils far in life. Excellent exam results are a bonus (and we exceed our bonus year on year). This will hopefully remind staff and students of the importance of having passion in all that we do.

Sign 2: Buckswood 2022 has a focus on Health and Wellbeing. We focus on physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing adopting fitness as a lifelong habit. Everyone this is the year to build up ones mental and physical strength so that we are ahead of the game!

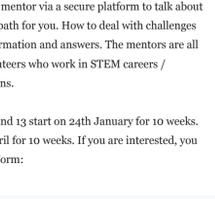
I reminded the boarders at their Sunday meeting that, as it is normally cold and wet outside, this is a perfect opportunity to hunker down into their studies. Staff will be expecting more this term as we gear up to exams, but as it the middle term it is also a time to dig deep and have a go at something new, to push the boundaries and to start to expand that CV or resume...! We have 11 weeks left so it is a great opportunity to ensure that goals are met and new experiences had!

The Astro has been finished and is in use and ICT department is settling into its new suite of rooms.

Let's aim for an excellent term.



Our new #G Astro is ready



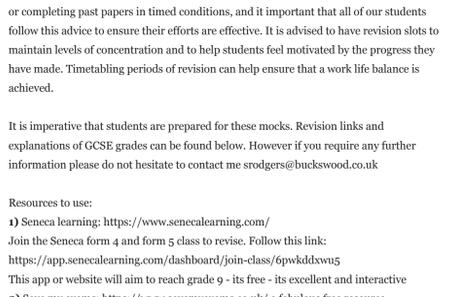
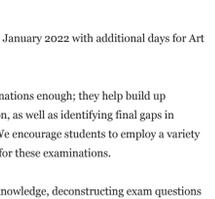
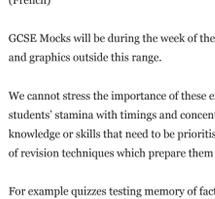
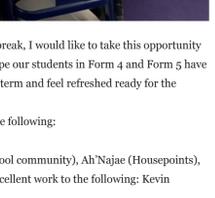
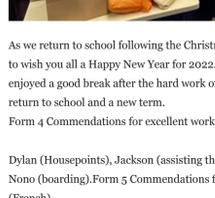
And you think you are cold!



Riding and Milne on a frosty morning



A busy library, exams around the corner



Sixth Form news

For those in the U6th, this middle term is the big one - university applications have to be in, revision for Mock Exams has to be on point and the IB students need to have completed all of their coursework. The school cannot stress firmly enough how important the mocks are (Starting Feb 21st). Last year at this time we knew that they were an essential data point to indicate to exam boards that our predicted grades were reliable. This year, we still don't know if exams are going to go ahead; certainly, the government want them to, so do we here at Buckswood. Still, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be proactive in strongly encouraging all concerned to revise their socks off!

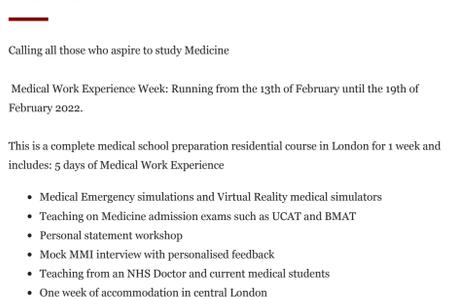
As for possible futures for our sixth formers, both upper and lower, there is a powerful push right now to consider all things STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths) related.

With this in mind, sixth form students have the opportunity to access a UK based STEM ambassador 1:1 online, where you can talk about your future study and career options and receive personalised mentoring.

You will be sent and receive messages with your mentor via a secure platform to talk about things like: Your options – to work out the best path for you. How to deal with challenges and uncertainty. Where to find trustworthy information and answers. The mentors are all STEM Ambassadors who are DBS checked volunteers who work in STEM careers / organisations or have studied STEM qualifications.

The next opportunities are as follows: Years 12 and 13 start on 24th January for 10 weeks. Then again, Years 12 and 13 also start on 4th April for 10 weeks. If you are interested, you should register for the sessions via this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/AnLeMPVcDFFSyNc9>

GCSE news



As we return to school following the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year for 2022. I hope our students in Form 4 and Form 5 have enjoyed a good break after the hard work of last term and feel refreshed ready for the return to school and a new term.

Form 4 Commendations for excellent work to the following:

Dylan (Housepoints), Jackson (assisting the school community), Ah'Najae (Housepoints), Nono (boarding). Form 5 Commendations for excellent work to the following: Kevin (French)

GCSE Mocks will be during the week of the 24th January 2022 with additional days for Art and graphics outside this range.

We cannot stress the importance of these examinations enough; they help build up students' stamina with timings and concentration, as well as identifying final gaps in knowledge or skills that need to be prioritised. We encourage students to employ a variety of revision techniques which prepare them best for these examinations.

For example quizzes testing memory of factual knowledge, deconstructing exam questions or completing past papers in timed conditions, and it important that all of our students follow this advice to ensure their efforts are effective. It is advised to have revision slots to maintain levels of concentration and to help students feel motivated by the progress they have made. Timetabling periods of revision can help ensure that a work life balance is achieved.

It is imperative that students are prepared for these mocks. Revision links and explanations of GCSE grades can be found below. However if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me srodgers@buckswood.co.uk

Resources to use:

- 1) Seneca learning: <https://www.senecalarning.com/>
- 2) Join the Seneca form 4 and form 5 class to revise. Follow this link: <https://app.senecalarning.com/dashboard/join-class/6pwkddxvuw5>
- 3) This app or website will aim to reach grade 9 - its free - its excellent and interactive
- 4) Save my exams: <https://www.savemyexams.co.uk/> a fabulous free resource
- 5) BBC bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/998jnp3>
- 6) Maths physics tutor: <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>
- 7) This site is equally good for A level or GCSE and covers other subjects e.g. all the sciences and geography...very good site. It has revision notes, flash cards and unit tests
- 8) Free science lessons - excellent you tube videos clearly explained - a must see https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqB0eHaAUXwI7sBVG3_bw
- 9) Past papers these can be found on the exam board websites (OCR, Edexcel, AQA, CIE, Eduqas). Past paper practice, index cards and regular reviewing are the key to success. Exam papers can be found also on <https://papers.xtremepape.rs/>
- 10) For Languages www.languagesonline.org.uk (better for GCSE) and see also www.linguascope.com

News from the Junior School



Our Upper Sixth student Edaardo, helping the juniors with their Science.

Happy New Year from The Junior School

At Buckswood, we seek every opportunity to inspire our students and each other. The teaching staff demonstrate their love of teaching in and out of the classroom, the headmaster is constantly on the lookout for any opportunity for inspirational dimensions to extend our learning programme. With this in mind, over the next two half terms, junior students will have the opportunity to get involved with our new programmes:

- **Monday madness vs meditation:** where students can learn team sports and games followed by meditation and mindfulness activities.
- **Fun Fridays:** we would like to reward students perhaps for positive points, team work, acts of kindness etc... Students will have the opportunity to play a game of cards, charades, chess, mini improvisation sessions, debates and cooking. I am sure the juniors will embrace these sessions designed to inspire and inform.

I have recently asked the juniors to fill out their Buckswood difference sheets and would like them to take time to reflect on what it is they are doing. Are they taking every opportunity here at Buckswood and what goals or aspiration do they have? Focusing on our 12 pillars, I will be finding out 'How Buckswood are you?'

Over the next few weeks, all this ties in with Mr Sutton's personal philosophy that education should never be dull, it should be fun. I would like all juniors to try something new this term so they can build and venture beyond the box. There will be clubs and activities held at lunchtimes, the programme for which will be sent out next week.

In celebration of students who do go above and beyond, I shall also be rewarding them with a trip. Reward trips like these will happen half termly so let's get the message home - it is time to find ourselves in pastures new!

Certainly, this marks a great start to a fantastic new year here at Buckswood - let's make for as many inspirational opportunities as possible.

Finally, could I please ask that you ensure that your child arrives at school in the morning with appropriate polished footwear, that they have the correct uniform and that their hair is neat and tidy? Let's make the the smartest set of juniors Buckswood's ever seen!

Sign up to Medicine

Calling all those who aspire to study Medicine

Medical Work Experience Week: Running from the 13th of February until the 19th of February 2022.

This is a complete medical school preparation residential course in London for 1 week and includes: 5 days of Medical Work Experience

- Medical Emergency simulations and Virtual Reality medical simulators
- Teaching on Medicine admission exams such as UCAT and BMAT
- Personal statement workshop
- Mock MMI interview with personalised feedback
- Teaching from an NHS Doctor and current medical students
- One week of accommodation in central London
- This course is appropriate for students aged 16+ who are interested in studying medicine.

You can read further information, as well as cost and additional dates, and book their space here: <https://educationprojects.co.uk/courses/uk-medical-work-experience-course/>

For further details please speak to Mrs Bramley or Mrs Rodgers

Boarding activities

Pizza making, lazertag & origami... it's all about diversity!

Mr Shryane's weekly crossword

Across

- 2 Part of Yorkshire train on horses. (6,6)
- 9 This instrument might groan unfortunately. (5)
- 10 Liberal soldiers on line for a place of books. (7)
- 11 So far the abominable snowman has lost his Tail. (3)
- 13 The half-relation produced a dissertation. (6)
- 14 It lay oddly in this country. (5)
- 15 This girl is endlessly evasive. (3)
- 18 Her first appearance consumed an Argument. (6)
- 20 Aquatic plant found in rural garden. (4)
- 22 Buckswood has starts in such an Organisation. (1,1,1)
- 23 Finger protection lain awkwardly. (4)
- 24 Burrs with steam starts causing a little Distress aboard ship. (6)
- 28 Before a literary form. (3)
- 30 Inside the lad ultimately became a grown-up. (5)
- 31 To start off Duchy was ready to take offence. (6)
- 32 Snake unusually found in a spring of Mineral water. (3)
- 35 Language describing beach pebbles moving. (7)
- 36 Facial feature a porcelain. (5)
- 37 Jumbled memo and tonic produce a Certificate of merit. (12)

Down

- 1 Untidy shop stall right within this place of exercise. (6,4)
- 2 Sorry about king and alien. (6)
- 3 Worried about gin and moving in a rhythmic way. (7)
- 4 Broken vehicle unknown in this service. (4)
- 5 South African officer is an experienced sailor. (4)
- 6 I bath at strange dwelling place. (7)
- 7 Look inside for a clearly authoritative person. (6)
- 8 It starts to give you more exercise here. (3)
- 12 Overhear mix up over playing card. (9)
- 15 The Roman magistrate lied about note. (5)
- 16 Lower rank of sailor as essential start. (5)
- 17 Many weapons discharged sphere in this game. (10)
- 19 Hear a letter in the unit of width. (2)
- 21 Arsenic. (2)
- 25 Oddly musical about to lose second element. (7)
- 26 Steal facial feature weirdly to get parts of a lung. (7)
- 27 A top rate dog strangely makes slow, gentle movement (6)
- 29 In fact ions are seen in combat. (6)
- 33 Avoid unruly hunts. (4)
- 34 An article about an article in this place. (4)

Kickboxing lessons

Kickboxing will resume on Thursday 13th January. The weekly sessions will be held at 4pm in the sports hall. All ages and abilities welcome!

Useful links

[Permission forms](#)

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

[Previous newsletters](#)

[Residential staff information - click here](#)

[Safeguarding & The Wellbeing Hub](#)

