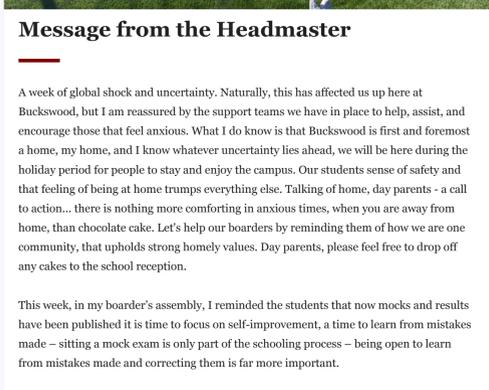


Monday 28th February 2022

# Newsletter



## Message from the Headmaster

A week of global shock and uncertainty. Naturally, this has affected us up here at Buckswood, but I am reassured by the support teams we have in place to help, assist, and encourage those that feel anxious. What I do know is that Buckswood is first and foremost a home, my home, and I know whatever uncertainty lies ahead, we will be here during the holiday period for people to stay and enjoy the campus. Our students sense of safety and that feeling of being at home trumps everything else. Talking of home, day parents - a call to action... there is nothing more comforting in anxious times, when you are away from home, than chocolate cake. Let's help our boarders by reminding them of how we are one community, that upholds strong homey values. Day parents, please feel free to drop off any cakes to the school reception.

This week, in my boarder's assembly, I reminded the students that now mocks and results have been published it is time to focus on self-improvement, a time to learn from mistakes made - sitting a mock exam is only part of the schooling process - being open to learn from mistakes made and correcting them is far more important.

I also promoted the annual trip to Eswatini (Swaziland). I encourage every child to join this trip and to benefit from all that it has to offer.

Eswatini trip video

Eswatini trip letter

Eswatini trip newsletter 2019

You may have noticed I have a love for trees and nature, however when a storm hits like it did last week fallen tree damage is a given. We were hit hard but we have nearly finished clearing up and what an amazing transformation in the weather this weekend - may this be a good omen for the week ahead.

## Message from Academics

A reminder. We would like to invite you to join us for a **Sixth Form information presentation**, led by Mr Shaw on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Shaw will host these meetings at 3 separate times, so that you are able to join from different time zones. On Thursday, simply click on one of the links below and you will be able to join the video call. The same content will be covered in each session, so you only need to join one.

The event is an opportunity to find out about our Sixth Form A level and International Baccalaureate options, and recent university success at the school. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end. If you would like to attend, please also drop Mr Shaw an email at [mshaw@buckswood.co.uk](mailto:mshaw@buckswood.co.uk) indicating which session you would like to join. Mr Shaw will be speaking to the current Form 5 students, in person, on Wednesday at 4pm.

### Meeting 1 - 0900-0945 (UK)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
[Learn more | Meeting options](#)

### Meeting 2 - 1700-1745

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
[Learn more | Meeting options](#)

### Meeting 3 - 2000-2045

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
[Learn more | Meeting options](#)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form Parent Consultation Evening

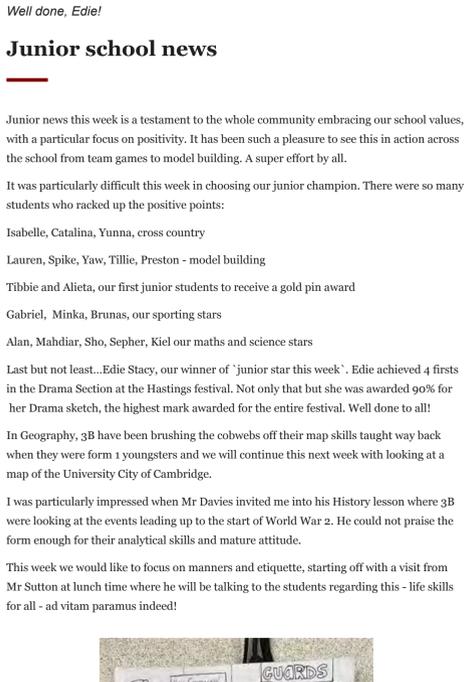
On Wednesday 2 March we have our 6<sup>th</sup> Form parent consultation evening, running from 5pm to 7pm GMT online. If your child is in the 6<sup>th</sup> form you can book slots with teachers at this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BuckswoodSchool@buckswood.co.uk/omicrosoft.com/bookings/s/jopwcksgsvE0FLrgifnTKog2>

If unsure of your child's teachers, please find this information on SIMS.

### GCSE options evening for Form 3 parents

On Wednesday 16th March we will be hosting a GCSE information session at school for Form 3 parents. This is an opportunity to speak to teachers about GCSE options and find out more about the workings of GCSE. The event will run between 1700-1830 in The Great Hall

Exam guidance for students



## The return of international day!

On Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> we are holding our 2022 International Day! This is a celebration of the many nations that make up the school and we invite parents and friends to come and visit to see for themselves what a diverse community we have at Buckswood. Students and staff will be serving food that represents their countries as well as dressing in national costumes and telling people about their country. Food sales will raise money for the charities that the school supports so in addition to celebrating our global village we are doing some good as well for worthy causes! Doors open at 10 am and it takes place in the Sports Hall. Open Morning is also taking place so there should be a real buzz around campus.

## Focus on Maths week

Mathematics is an important skill that people use throughout their lives. Unfortunately, many children and adults alike feel anxious when they have to do maths.

At Buckswood we are dedicated to making maths lessons as enjoyable as possible with a range of activities that are spread throughout the year to make the subject less scary, more fun and more relevant. We play a range of maths games such as treasure hunts, team challenges, timetable challenges and board games, most of which were devised by our experienced teachers. We do maths walks where students walk a pre-determined path solving mathematical questions. As well as making the lessons more enjoyable, these activities contribute to our students' success. Even though we are a non-selective school, we enjoy consistently good maths results, year after year above the national averages.

We take part in three UK Maths Challenge competitions which have helped us accumulate tens of bronze, silver and gold medals over the years.

Of course, some of these activities were disrupted by covid-19 arrangements and restrictions in recent years, but we did our best to make sure our students did not lose out on learning opportunities that are full of fun.

### Focus week arrangements

Monday 28th February is the beginning of the maths focus week at Buckswood. We have devised a range of activities:

Form 1 and Form 2 students will take part in a statistics project using Smarties Chocolates. They will be given small boxes of chocolates and will be expected to find mean, mode, median and range of the data before enjoying the chocolates. Then they will analyse and display the data on a poster.

Form 4 students will take part in an origami activity where they will create 3D mathematical shapes using craft paper. They will be given tasks at increasing difficulty.

Some of our top students will take part in the Buckswood Intermediate Maths Challenge where form 3, form 4 and form 5 students compete against each other. In the Christmas term we competed a senior maths challenge where L6 IB, L6 A level, U6 IB and U6 A level students competed against each other. The results were very close with U6 A level team crossed the finish line first.

Currently some of our experienced teachers are working on a mathematical treasure hunt which will possibly take part at Drusilla's Zoo in the Summer term.

As well as honing our students mathematical skills, we are preparing them for the upcoming UK Chess Challenge. If you are under 19 years old and would like to take part in some competitive chess playing, hurry up and contact the Maths Department.

## Sixth Form news

As the sun returns this weekend, our upper sixth will be feeling mightily relieved that mocks are out of the way - with the exception of our IB cohort who have one more Maths exam on Monday. A big push is required for coursework from the IB next week as this coming Friday, March the 4<sup>th</sup>, is the absolute deadline for everything, from extended essays to internal assignments. It is essential that this deadline is met as the IB students will be our first cohort to hit the exam trail in May and will be finished before the A level students have even begun: A long and happy summer before them! Personally I will be running Access Times all week for those who need my guidance. This will be on a first come first serve basis!

Overall, a big well done for this and for continuing to make me proud regarding both positive points and the absolute dearth of sanctions. Obviously knocking down brings out your best side!

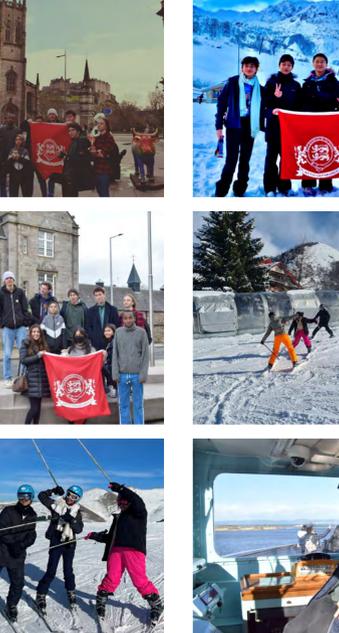
The week was brought to a close on Friday afternoon with a talk from Harry Xu, a representative from York University attended by a nearly all of our L6th students, many of whom stayed behind to talk to Harry about this prestigious university and its many exciting courses. Its great that these type of events have finally moved off line and back into the live arena. Several more to come so do watch this space.

## GCSE news

Following the release of mock results for Form 5 (on SIMS), Mrs Rodgers will shortly be writing to parents of those we feel are in need of more support. For all students, looking to make improvements in their GCSE performance, we will be offering the following over the coming weeks and months...

- Signposting to compulsory revision access time
- Saturday/Sunday morning revision slots
- A full day of off timetable revision in key subjects prior to exams
- A series of mini mocks at the end of term for those we feel will benefit.
- Focused catch up sessions in boarding between 2-6pm.

Our mock exam session has proven to be extremely valuable practice, it is important that the positives are taken from this, but also that areas for improvement are identified for focus. Well done for all your efforts so far Form 5!



Well done, Edie!

## Junior school news

Junior news this week is a testament to the whole community embracing our school values, with a particular focus on positivity. It has been such a pleasure to see this in action across the school from team games to model building. A super effort by all.

It was particularly difficult this week in choosing our junior champion. There were so many students who racked up the positive points:

- Isabelle, Catalina, Yunna, cross country
- Lauren, Spike, Yaw, Tillie, Preston - model building
- Tibbie and Alieta, our first junior students to receive a gold pin award
- Gabriel, Minka, Brunas, our sporting stars
- Alan, Mahdiar, Shou, Sepher, Kiel our maths and science stars

Last but not least...Edie Stacy, our winner of 'junior star this week'. Edie achieved 4 firsts in the Drama Section at the Hastings festival. Not only that but she was awarded 90% for her Drama sketch, the highest mark awarded for the entire festival. Well done to all!

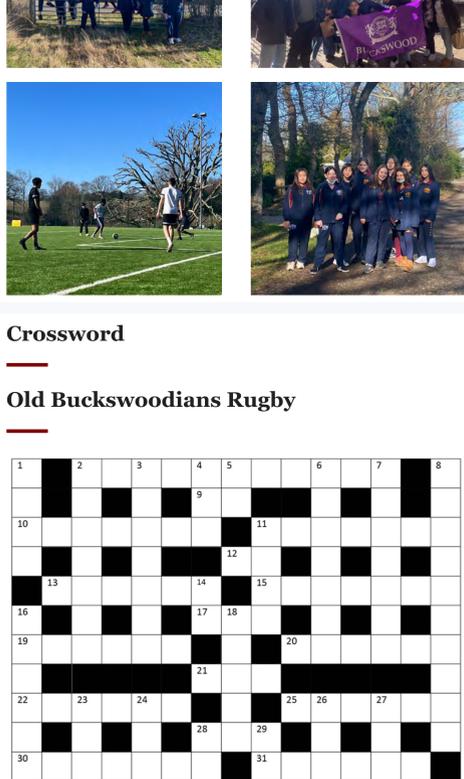
In Geography, 3B have been brushing the cobwebs off their map skills taught way back when they were form 1 youngsters and we will continue this next week with looking at a map of the University City of Cambridge.

I was particularly impressed when Mr Davies invited me into his History lesson where 3B were looking at the events leading up to the start of World War 2. He could not praise the form enough for their analytical skills and mature attitude.

This week we would like to focus on manners and etiquette, starting off with a visit from Mr Sutton at lunch time where he will be talking to the students regarding this - life skills for all - ad vitam paramus indeed!



## Half term trips



## Crossword

### Old Buckswoodians Rugby

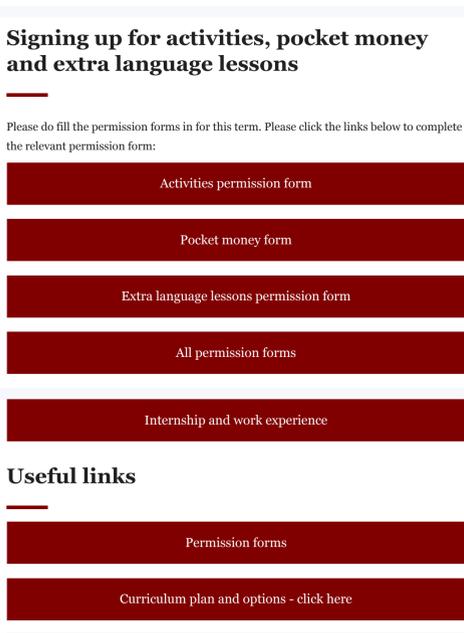


**Across**

- 2 They raved in unkempt field of fruit. (3,8)
- 9 Attract attention in two instants. (2)
- 10 Bizarrely thicken food cooked here. (7)
- 11 Setter and fellows to find keepsake. (7)
- 12 Bismuth. (2)
- 13 Allow damage to whalebone. (6)
- 15 Scientist I'm backing in case. (7)
- 17 Employ uranium and selenium. (3)
- 19 Oddly nice, it will encourage. (6)
- 20. Young urban criminal is tot's worry.
- 21. Endless contest reversing this vehicle. (8)
- 22. Entrails upset inmate. (6)
- 25. Creature found in disturbed layer. (6)
- 28. Not working inside of factory. (3)
- 30. Range oddly about 101 finds a national. (7)
- 31. Sport not starting to get bigger. (6)
- 32. Einsteinium. (2)
- 34. Commanding officer to be right this month. (7)
- 35. Informal farewell to happy love. (7)
- 36. Gold. (2)
- 37. See 1 down

**Down**

- 1 (and 37 across) Award from the queen's late consort. (4,2,9)
- 2 Enormous ill-fated ship. (7)
- 3. Show hard committed programme in way out. (7)
- 4. One working is charged. (3)
- 5. Nickel. (2)
- 6. Unplanned seismic shift. (7)
- 7. He surprisingly stunted on his work with choppers. (7)
- 8. 51 off trend unusually in this area of sport. (5,5)
- 11. Rodents held in seismic event. (4)
- 14. Europium. (2)
- 16. Noise in clean place to eat. (6,4)
- 18. Strangely master nothing. (7)
- 24. Can I be friendly? (7)
- 26. Queen overturned at celebration time. (3,4)
- 29. Francium. (2)
- 33. Two rounds in place for a swim. (4)
- 35. Youngster is returning one-third of Buckswood. (3)



2017/18 Buckswood 1st team half 'back combination, Stash and Dan, photographed after their senior international in Prague. Stash's Poland beat Daniel's Czech, 27-10. Well done to both. ☺

## Signing up for activities, pocket money and extra language lessons

Please do fill the permission forms in for this term. Please click the links below to complete the relevant permission form:

Activities permission form

Pocket money form

Extra language lessons permission form

All permission forms

Internship and work experience

## Useful links

Permission forms

Curriculum plan and options - click here

Previous newsletters

Residential staff information - click here

Safeguarding & The Wellbeing Hub

