

Bredon Hill Academy

Learning Together for Success



Autumn Term 2021

A message from the Headteacher...



It was an absolute pleasure to see BHA spring back in to life at the beginning of term. Like most schools last year, our pupils had worked in Bubbles in their Bubble Zones. As a result, back in September, we were in an interesting position. Our new Year 6 pupils had never been around the school as we'd had to cancel Open Evening. Our Year 7 pupils had been based in the top two floors of the tower block and had never ventured out to the Design Technology rooms or maths' block. The last time our Year 8 pupils had been around the school was back in the spring term of 2019 when they were in Year 6. So, with very few children knowing their way around the school, we weren't really sure what would happen. We should never have worried. Pupils went to different classrooms and took it all in their stride. Pupils helped others and new friendships were formed.

It has been another challenging term but as our school motto says, we are all 'learning together for success'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their ongoing support. It is this community spirit that makes Bredon Hill Academy the very special place it is.

The final week of the Autumn Term is always a busy one, and so far this week, we've had Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas meal. On Friday, we have our whole school awards' assembly and all staff and pupils will take part in our traditional Christmas Quiz. And, there may be a few more surprises too!

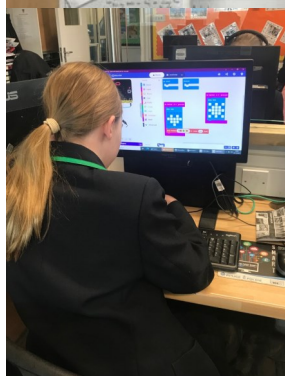
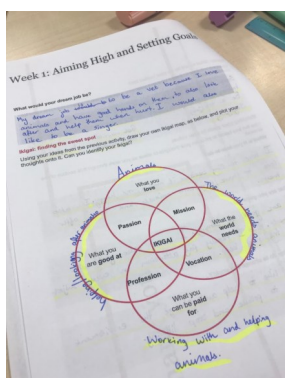
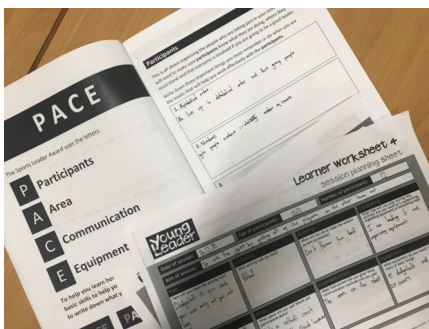
We hope everyone across our BHA community has a safe and restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing pupils on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Debbie Welf



Key Dates

Teaching Training Day	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Start of Spring Term	Wednesday 5th January 2022 (staggered start due to LFD testing—see separate letter)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (X Side)	Thursday 20th January 2022 (3:30pm—6:30pm)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (Y Side)	Tuesday 1st February 2022 (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Teacher Training Day	Friday 18th February 2022
Half Term	Monday 21st February—Friday 25th February 2022



Focus on Learning

This term there has been a real 'buzz' around the school. It has been great to return to almost 'normal', with pupils no longer learning in Bubbles, movement around the school so that specialist classrooms can be used and pupils being able to enjoy the practical side of subjects in science, food and nutrition, art, music, product design and sports.

Bredon Hill offers a rich and ambitious curriculum which is not limited to the walls of our classrooms. Our curriculum is enhanced through assemblies, KS3 Enrichment, Pupil Voice and Extra-curricular Clubs. If you would like further information about our curriculum, each subject has a Curriculum Map available here: [Curriculum Pages](#).

We have adapted our Enrichment curriculum this academic year, so all pupils will get to experience the full complement of what we are offering. Year 7 areas of study include free running, flicker book animation and Minecraft. Year 8 areas of study include Young Leaders, Marvel Graphic Novels and Photography. Further details of the Enrichment Programme can be found on our website under Teaching and Learning.

Our Pupil Voice representatives meet half-termly and have recently made some great suggestions to improve our dining room experience.

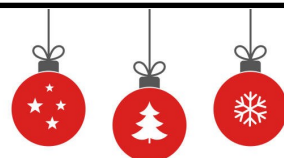
Don't forget to keep up to date on all things BHA online!



Visit the MCAS website regularly for up to date information on your child's achievements and assessments, as well as other key information.



@BredonHAcademy



Celebrating Together



It's great to see Bredon's community spirit in action this term. Highlights have included raising £1087 for Children in Need through cookie sales and £459 for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day.

At the same time as our pupils donned their most festive attire, we had a great take-up for our festive lunch. The hall was filled with Christmas spirit, as each year group gathered together.

Meanwhile, over 250 pupils have been rewarded for being 'Zero Heroes' with a cookie and hot chocolate celebration - a fantastically high number of pupils, who have gone through the Autumn Term without receiving any sanctions. Next term marks a clean slate and we look forward to even greater numbers maintaining our high expectations of conduct.



Congratulations to:

- Arthur M in 8H for coming 2nd in the sparring discipline at the British Taekwondo Championships;
- Ava M in 7A for winning the Holstein Young Breeders Regional Handling competition and then representing the West Midlands in the National All Breeds All Britain Calf Show;
- Ella C in 8A for a successful trial and accepting a place with the U17 Severn Stars Nova Super League Academy netball team.



House Point Update

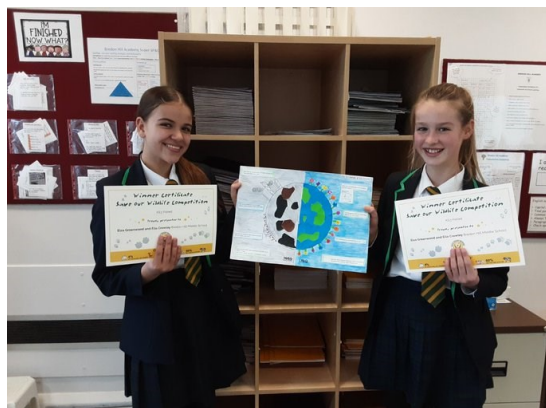
There's been a plethora of house points awarded for excellent effort, achievement and participation across this term, using our new Bromcom system. Well done to Vale, who have this month surged into the lead after an earlier period of Hill dominance. (House Point totals correct up to 14/12/21)

Avon	Brook	Castle	Hill	Tower	Vale
1638	1765	1600	1855	1926	2198

Focus on STEM



This term has seen many STEM activities taking place across Science, Computing and Maths.



We have taken part in the 'Save our Wildlife' competition, where pupils completed artwork based around the theme of protecting wildlife. Several pieces of work were entered, and the school has been invited to the final where the winners will be announced.

Based upon the Earthshot prize, pupils have started to take part in the Generation Earthshot activities. During form time, all pupils are encouraged to think of their own innovative ideas to repair our planet.

Earlier in the term, a group of year 8 pupils were lucky enough to speak to Matt Gotrel from the SailGP GB team about his engineering background and his motivation to succeed.

STEM Club has come back with a bang (not literally!). It has been fantastic to see so many year 6, 7 and 8 pupils coming to STEM club on a weekly basis. Pupils complete various activities, including building the highest free-standing structure using only spaghetti, mini marshmallows, 1m of tape and 1m



of string, as part of Engineering Week celebrations.



Earlier in the year, a group of Year 7 pupils were invited to apply to take part in the Maths Masterclass Tutorials, provided by Talent-Ed or the Monthly Maths' Challenge Programme, provided by The Good Thinking Society. Congratulations to those who have been accepted onto either programme.

The masterclasses are designed to challenge pupils and stretch them beyond the maths they will be doing at school. These sessions will improve their maths problem-solving, understanding and confidence, and generally increase their enjoyment and commitment to the subject. The hour-long sessions are delivered via Zoom. Sessions cover a mix of quick and fun maths questions followed by longer and more challenging problems that the group work through together with their tutor.

Year 7 students on the Monthly Maths' Challenge Programme will be invited to 10 free live monthly webinars, in which high-profile mathematicians including Countdown series champion Junaid Mubeen and bestselling science writer Simon Singh will go through a series of maths puzzles in order to help students develop their problem-solving skills. We have had extremely positive feedback from pupils who have taken part so far.



Focus on English



This term has been a busy and challenging term full to the brim with learning in English.

We welcomed our new year six cohort with the novel by Catherine Johnson 'Race to the Frozen North'. The year six theme for the year is 'Journeys'. We all enjoyed following Matthew Henson's journey to the Arctic as the students started their new journey at BHA. Along the way, we learnt about resilience, prejudice, perseverance, injustice and how views about race have changed over a century. The students developed their retrieval, comprehending, summarising, questioning and inferring skills whilst reading the text. They all developed their writing skills by completing emotional letters and diary entries in the voice of Matthew Henson. All year six students have been encouraged to think carefully about their personal reading choices and to challenge themselves to read a variety of writers, and ensure they are reading books that are age-appropriate. At present, Year 6 are exploring the 'Near and Far' poetry unit of learning and have produced entertaining, thought-provoking poems based on [Holub's 'The Door' poem](#).



Year seven were welcomed back after a summer of reading to explore the concepts of heroism and villainy. The epic 'Beowulf' has been explored and dissected as a text. The year group have been challenged to begin their KS3 curriculum by questioning: how do students use quotations to support their opinions whilst exploring how writers construct continuous texts? They have been studying how Beowulf, the character, comes across to a modern reader. They have had many varied thoughts and they have conveyed these through their written responses. They are

now learning about climate change and how modern heroes and villains use persuasive techniques to convey and sell ideas to a modern consumer. Again, year seven students have been challenged to move their personal reading to the next level. We were very pleased to be able to participate in the Book Buzz initiative again this year; we hope all students enjoyed their gift of a new book to enjoy. If you want more details go here: [Book Buzz](#).

Year eight learning is based around the concept of 'conflict' in English. They have all been given the opportunity to learn about dystopian fiction conventions and how different writers open their novels and short stories. The cohort were challenged to explore extended metaphors and how thematic strands run through texts. We enjoyed reading all their creative openings and hope to see some students becoming famous dystopian authors in the future! The students have taken these skills forward and are exploring the poetry of conflict at present. They are grappling with poets from the past and the present and are analysing how conflict is presented through the varied medium. They are producing some challenging poems themselves as they take their writing skills forward.



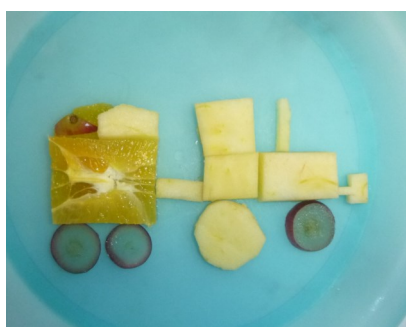
The whole school has experienced our Scholastic Book Fair. This gave students and teachers the opportunity to see, feel and discuss books. The energy and focus on reading were fantastic. We have all valued this even though we could not run it as we would have wished. Fingers-crossed for next year. [Scholastic](#) is a great site to use for ideas about reading.

The Library has been running every lunchtime and we have had an influx of new books funded through Readathon and Scholastic Book Fairs. Mrs Oakley and her team of staff and students have enjoyed helping students choose their next read, providing a quiet space for reading. Our clubs have been running through the term, and students have enjoyed films, writing challenges and reading. We are looking forward to shadowing the Carnegie Prize in 2022; the long list is announced in February.

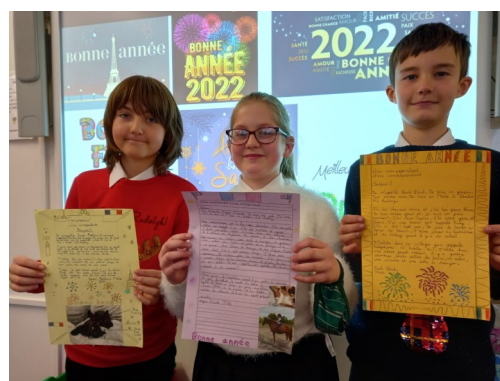
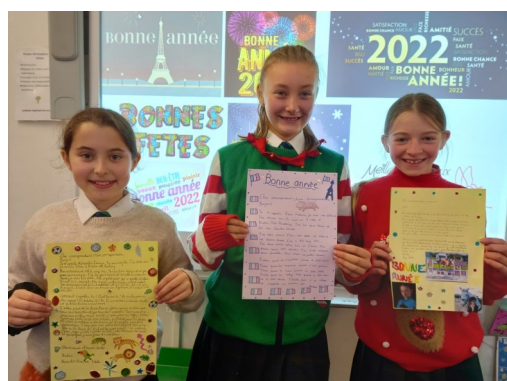
Focus on Foundation Subjects

This term has been very busy in the Food department. Pupils have been introduced to practical lessons in which they've been encouraged to work independently to develop their cooking skills. Year 6 and 7 have been learning about the importance of health, safety and hygiene, demonstrating practical cutting skills. Elsewhere, Year 8s have been tasked with making Bolognese and short crust pastry from scratch. A Year 8 Practical Cooking Club during Friday lunchtimes has also proved very successful, with its members being able to take home cookies, swiss rolls and apple crumbles home to their families.

Meanwhile, it's been lovely to hear a full range of practical music once more in the school. Year 6 have been exploring performing and composing with body percussion, whilst year 7 have developed their keyboard skills. Our Year 8s have enjoyed some African drumming sessions. Singing, both in the classroom and at lunchtime clubs, is travelling down the corridors once again!



In French, Year 7 pupils have rounded off an excellent term and are proud to show off their writing. We have a beautiful set of pen pal letters which will soon be making their way to our partner school in Mamers, France. Pupils worked hard to develop the accuracy of their sentences and have produced detailed responses, filled with interesting information about themselves. Bravo!



Focus on Physical Education



It's been great to offer our pupils a range of competitive sporting fixtures with other schools this term. We have been incredibly impressed with their commitment, desire and conduct, often in tricky weather conditions.

Our Year 8 football team are through to the quarter finals of the County Cup after a recent 8-5 victory against Nunnery Wood; we're due to play Walkwood Middle in the new term. Unfortunately, our Year 6 team lost to Witton Middle 8-5 in the first round.

Despite this, Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their Inter-House competition, which has seen very high levels of participation, some long-range screamers and fantastically entertaining games. Our final round of games took place this Thursday, with Hill being crowned very worthy winners, despite a final round defeat to Avon. A big 'well done' to all those who got involved; it was great to see! The final table is below.

House	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	GD
Hill	5	4	1	0	12	+6
Avon	5	3	1	1	10	+3
Brook	5	2	1	2	8	+2
Tower	5	2	2	1	7	-1
Castle	5	1	3	1	4	-3
Vale	5	0	4	1	1	-7



Our Year 7 and 8 netball teams have also been in competitive action, with our Year 8 team recently beating Winchcombe School 15-0. The high turnout to training and the positivity and camaraderie shown during lunch time sessions has been most impressive.

Rugby continues to be a strength of the school, with a range of fixtures, both home and away. At the start of the month, our Year 7 team beat Winterfold School 14 tries to nil, whilst Year 8 won 7 tries to 1. We've also had successful performances and results against Dean Close and Dyson Perrins.



Focus on Extra-Curricular

We're proud of the wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities we offer, which are well attended and every pupil has the opportunity to be involved in. Our range is reviewed termly, with the Spring Term's below:

Monday		
Rugby	Year 6 - boys	Mr Sheridan (Field)
Netball	Year 6 - girls	Mrs Speake (Courts)
Library	All years	Mrs Oakley and Team
Singing Club	Invitation Only	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)
Minecraft Club	Year 6	Mr Bishop (Computer Room)
Chess Club	Year 8	Mrs Campbell (Room 11)
Bredon Bears Carnegie Reading Group	Year 6 Week 1&4 Year 7 Week 2&5 Year 8 Week 3&6	Mrs Bartlett (Room 3) – Blue weeks only
Gardening Club	Year 6	Mrs Bankes (Friendship Garden)

Tuesday		
Rugby	Year 7 – boys	Mr Sheridan (Field)
Football	Year 8 – boys	Mr Haines (Field)
Netball	Year 7 – girls	Mrs Speake (Courts)
Art	Year 8	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Green weeks only
Library	All years	Mrs Oakley and Team
Band Practice	Invitation Only	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)
Minecraft Club	Year 7/8	Mr Bishop (Computer Room)
Lego Club	Year 6	Miss Lloyd (Room 12)
Agents Of Kindness	Invitation Only	Mrs Sidney (Room 7)
Gardening Club	Year 7	Mrs Bankes (Friendship Garden)

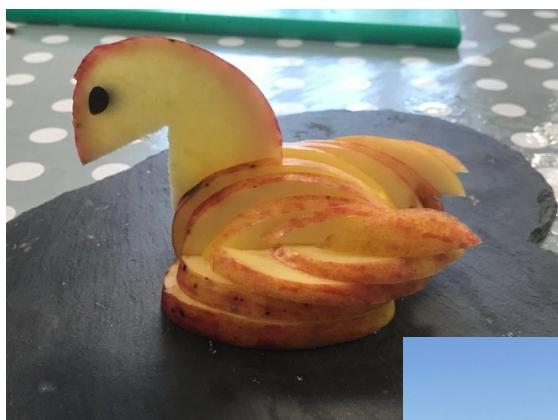
Wednesday		
Football	Year 7 – boys	Mr Haines (Field)
Rugby	Yrs 7/8 – girls	Mr Sheridan and Mrs Speake (Field)
Library	All years	Mrs Oakley and Team
Gaming Club	Year 6	Mr Bishop (Computing Room)
Turing Tumbles Club	Year 7	Mrs Merrick (Room 12)
STEM Club	All years	Mrs Griffin, Mr Bailey and Mrs Huntly (Science Labs)
Bird-Watching Club	Year 6	Mrs Smith (Meet in the garden)
Film Club	Year 6	Mrs Jessop (Room 3) – Green weeks only
History Book Club	Years 7/8	Mr Pearce (Room 2) – a place to read fiction and non-fiction texts linked to History and share ideas.
French Club	All years	Mme Amzallag (Room 6) – Green weeks – playing games to consolidate learning and/or get extra help or support Blue weeks – for those who enjoy watching films in French
Gardening Club	Year 8	Mrs Bankes (Friendship Garden)
Music Homework Help	All years	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)

Thursday

History Catch-Up	All years	Miss Durkin (Room 7)
Rugby	Year 8 – boys	Mr Sheridan (Field)
Football	Year 6 – boys	Mr Haines (Field)
Netball	Year 8 – girls	Mrs Speake (Courts)
Art Club	Year 7	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Blue weeks only
Library	All years	Mrs Oakley and Team
Drop-In Practice Sessions	All years	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)
Craft Club	Invitation only	Mrs Bannister (Room 11)
Craft Club	Year 7	Mrs Dorrell (T1)
Creative Writing	All years	Mrs Bartlett (Room 3) – Green weeks only
Maths Clinic	All years	A perfect opportunity to get help with maths home learning or catch up missed work. (Room 10/12)
Gaming Club	Years 7/8	Mr Bishop (Computing Room)
Gardening Club	Year 6	Mrs Bankes (Friendship Garden) Eco-Action Team Only

Friday

History Club	All years	Miss Durkin (Room 7)
Football	All years – girls	Mrs Speake and Mr Sheridan (Field)
Art Club	Year 6	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Green weeks only
Library	All years	Mrs Oakley and Team
Cooking Skills Club	Invitation only	Mrs Parkinson (T2)
Chess Club	Year 6	Mrs Oakley (Room 11)
Gardening Club	Year 7	Mrs Bankes (Friendship Garden) Eco-Action Team Only



EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Help and support for Children, Young People and their families or carers.



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