

# Bredon Hill Academy

*Learning Together  
for Success*



**Autumn Term 2023**



## ***A message from the Headteacher...***

I can't quite believe that we are in our final week of the autumn term. It seems like yesterday that we welcomed our Year 6 pupils and were handing out new planners, timetables and exercise books.



It has been another incredibly busy term both in and out of the classroom. There have been trips, guest speakers and charity fund-raising activities to name but a few. Our newsletter provides an overview of some of these events.

Our school council continues to play an integral role in improving the school. Each tutor sends two form representatives to raise issues or make suggestions. The pupils form the agenda, chair the meeting and take the minutes - Miss Lloyd is there just to keep order! As a result of the school council, we have made many changes, including the recent refurbishment of the toilets, hot chocolate in the colder months, playground games, more interhouse tournaments and a lunch time take-away option. We are always amazed at the pupils' ideas and try to introduce as many of them as we can. Unfortunately, we cannot have two hours of PE a day and there is nowhere to build a sports' complex with an indoor pool!

Once again, we would like to express our sincerest thank you to our parents and carers for their ongoing support and commitment to BHA. It is appreciated.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Debbie West*



## ***Key Dates***

Start of Spring Term	Monday 8th January 2024 (Blue Week)
Relationships, Sex Education and Online Safety Information Evening (all parents/carers)	Tuesday 16th January 2024 from 6pm
Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Wednesday 7th February 2024 from 5:30pm
Half Term	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024
Year 6 Parents' Evening—virtual	Wednesday 21st (X Side) and 28th (Y side) February 2024
Year 7 Parents' Evening—virtual	Wednesday 10th (X side) and 17th (Y side) April 2024

## BHA in the Community



It's been great to see Bredon's community spirit in action this term. Whole school highlights have included raising £510 for Children in Need through cookie sales and £450 for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day. We have collected much-needed goods on behalf of Caring Hands of Evesham's Food Bank and shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Pupils in 6 Brook have also been collecting for a reverse advent calendar to support the food bank at Evesham Adventure Playground.



On 12 November, Amelia A and Isla C represented pupils and staff of Bredon Hill Academy at Broadway's Remembrance service. With Miss West, they laid a wreath at the war memorial and then attended the service at St Michael's Church. In school, we raised over £80 for the poppy appeal.



As part of Mrs Parkinson's Enrichment sessions, pupils in year 8 are taking it in turns to organise, promote, bake and then sell some sweet treats once every half-term. So far, thanks to the delicious efforts of 8 Hill and 8 Tower, we have raised £236 for mental health charity Young Minds and over £200 for Children with Cancer UK. We look forward to raising more funds for child-focused charities across the rest of the academic year.

### House Point Update

There's been a huge amount of house points awarded for excellent effort, achievement and participation across this term. Well done to Vale, who have leapt into the lead after the autumn term. House Point totals will continue to be totted up over the course of the year and added to the results of House Competitions before the overall cup winners are announced in July.



Avon	Brook	Castle	Hill	Tower	Vale
2889	2567	2350	2828	3238	3604

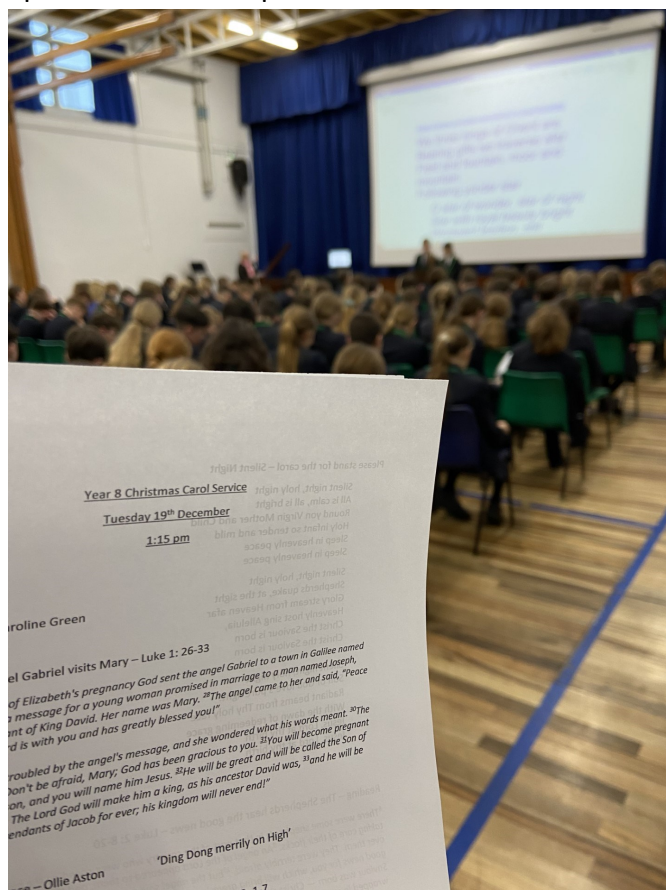


## BHA Celebrations

There were platefuls of turkey and trimmings galore as we came together as a BHA Community for our festive lunch. Coinciding with Christmas Jumper Day, it was lovely to see so many pupils dressed for the occasion! Set before a very non-authentic giant fireplace and with yuletide favourites playing in the background, the pupils clearly enjoyed this sociable tradition.

We've had an absolutely mammoth amount of 'Zero Heroes' over the autumn term, with just over 400 pupils—well over 80% of the school—not picking up a behaviour sanction (warning) so far this year. Pupils celebrated this accolade with a certificate, cookie and hot chocolate. We're hoping all of these pupils will continue on such a positive journey, maintaining their high standards across the rest of the year for a special end of year treat.

As a consequence of the weather, we moved our planned church services into the school hall this year. Combining a sermon from local vicars, Bible readings, musical performances and carols, it was a fitting reminder to all about the true meaning and significance of this time of year. A big well done to those who took part as readers or performers.







## ***Focus on Enrichment***

Pupils in years 7 and 8 are continuing this academic year with their Enrichment Studies. These take place every Blue Thursday for two hours on half-termly rotations. The sessions enable pupils to explore learning and concepts that go beyond the National Curriculum, reflecting our school motto of 'Learning Together for Success' across a range of different contexts.

In year 7 pupils cover IDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award), German, First Aid, Weaving, Character Development and Wellbeing. Meanwhile, year 8 take on Dance, Podcasting, Photography, Charity Enterprise, Team Building and Sports Leadership. The sessions are always very positively received and we evaluate their impact and enjoyment with pupils before making refinements every year.



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—on Facebook and X

## House Point Awards



We award house points at BHA for a range of achievements, from academic achievement to using our word of the week independently; from sporting excellence to demonstrating one of our school values of Belief, Honesty and Aspiration. Well done to the following pupils who have already achieved up to at least 50 house points (as of 19 December) this academic year and therefore have been presented with their 'bronze awards'.

Year 6	Megan H	Year 8
Freddie A	Toby H	Henry C
Ella B	Lily J	Maizy B
Jessica M	Robert K	Francesca C
George X	Savannah R	Noah H
Azlan M	Eliza S	Freddie R
Ellie T	Maya S	Chloe R
Ethan C	Year 7	Sophia S-C
Archer P	Tia K	Rosianna D
Noah P	Ella B	Hebe G
Henry C	Bethany C	Amie L
Sam C	Harrison C	Oliwia P
Emily F	Eben G	Lily R
Grace G	Lyra-May L	Gemma S
Harry H	Thomas P	Harbor S
Wiktor P	Jack S	Ella T
Dani B	Lotte K	Amelia A
Iris B	Lola F	Rosie C
Archie D	Harper H	William C
Finley D	Fern W	Mya P
Savannah F	Kira B	Zofia P
Callum T	Ella D	Elizabeth-Helena T
Freya G		





## Focus on English

This term has been a busy and text-rich one. Pupils have been actively learning in English. Each day we see pupils showing their Academy values of belief, honesty and aspiration. We truly have been 'Learning Together for Success'.



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 pupils started their new journey at Bredon Hill Academy. Along the way, we learnt about resilience, prejudice, perseverance, injustice and how views about race have changed over a century. Pupils 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. In particular, pupils developed vocabulary choices, sentence structures and paragraphing skills.



All year six pupils 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 translated novel by Daniel Pennac 'Eye of the Wolf'. This enables them to draw connections through setting, character, themes and language. They have also been

introduced to Spelling Frame and Year 6 SATs Boot Camp to close gaps and secure Year 6 grammar, punctuation and spelling knowledge and practice.

### Spellingframe

**Spelling Rule 1 - Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable**

beginner (be-gin-ner)

beginning (be-gin-ning)

forgetting (for-get-ting)

forgotten (for-got-ten)

gardener (gar-den-er)

gardening (gar-den-ing)

limitation (lim-i-ta-tion)

limited (lim-it-ed)

limiting (lim-it-ing)

preferred (pre-ferred)

prefer (pre-fer)



Topic 1 Basic Punctuation	Topic 2 Commas & Inverted Commas	Topic 3 Apostrophes	Topic 4 Colons & Semi-colons	Topic 5 On Punctuation
Topic 6 Quotations & Punctuation	Topic 7 Adjectives	Topic 8 Verbs	Topic 9 Adverbs & Adverbials	Topic 10 Reading Vocabulary



Year seven were welcomed back after a summer of reading to explore the concepts of heroism and villainy. They have all studied a modern novel looking at Joseph Campbell's 'The Hero's Journey'. The year group have been challenged to begin their KS3 curriculum by questioning: how do students use quotes to support their opinions whilst exploring how writers construct continuous texts? We were very pleased to be able to participate in the Book Buzz initiative again this year; we hope all pupils enjoyed their gift of a new book. If you want more details go here: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/>

Year eight learning is based around the concept of 'conflict' in English. They have all been given the opportunity to read a modern novel and learn about how different writers open and end their novels and develop the concept of conflict through them. The cohort were challenged to explore extended metaphors and how thematic strands run through texts. We enjoyed reading all their creative ideas and hope to see some pupils becoming famous authors in the future!



The whole school have experienced our Scholastic Book Fair and the competition to win a book. Congratulations to our winners: Bess, Jack and Harriet. This gave pupils and staff the opportunity to see, feel and discuss books. We made £968.48 and will put our £409 of reward points towards new books for our Library. Scholastic is a great site to use for ideas about reading: <https://www.scholastic.co.uk/>

The library has been running every lunchtime. Our year eight librarians have enjoyed helping their peers choose their next read and providing a quiet space for reading. Our clubs have been running through the term, and pupils have enjoyed films, debating and reading. We are looking forward to shadowing the Yoto Carnegie Prize in 2023; the long list is announced in February. If you want to see past winners go here: <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>.

We wish you all a restful break and we are looking forward to our spring learning. For ideas about books, you can set up a free account here: <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>. Please visit the following sites for more suggestions for every reading ability: <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>; [https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resouces for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resouces%20for%20schools/7%20Top%20Tips%20to%20Support%20Reading%20at%20Home.pdf); <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/>. There are reading lists and our Reading Newsletters on our website too.

The English Department



## Focus on History

Year 6 have completed their first topic in history 'What is history?' Pupils are equipped now with a knowledge of history skills to be finishing off their KS2 studies in history with the topic, 'Life Achievements and the Legacy of the Ancient Greeks'.

Year 7 are continuing with their studies on the impact of the Norman Conquest on England. This has included a successful trip to Warwick Castle, where pupils were given the opportunity to climb 'The Mound' (site of the original Motte and Bailey castle), climb the towers and ramparts and visit the state rooms amongst other parts of the castle. Pupils also witnessed the trebuchet show, which included the firing of it, and The Falconer's Quest—a fantastic show of the birds of prey and a definite highlight of the trip for many of the year group.

Year 8 are continuing with their studies on crime and punishment through time. Pupils have relived what it was like to be alive in medieval and Tudor times and have gained an understanding of what the worst punishment involved (think Gunpowder Plotters), how women were treated if they were accused of witchcraft and how the country was divided during the Civil War.

History Club members have been making models based around Roman events. All years are welcome to History Club. It runs at 11.50am Tuesday lunchtimes in Room 7.





## Focus on Physical Education

It's been another busy term of sporting participation at Bredon Hill Academy, with many successes and memorable moments to celebrate. Our highlights have included:

- Coaching sessions provided to year 8 girls from Bredon Star RFC;
- Great participation and success in the district cross-country competition, including our year 6 and year 7 boys' and girls' teams finishing first and a whopping 17 pupils across years 6, 7 and 8 qualifying for the county round;
- Excellent success in the Sportshall District Team Competition, held at TDMS school, with a particular mention to our year 6 mixed gender and year 7 boys' teams who ran out winners;
- Our year 7 and 8 boys' football teams were district champions earlier in the term and our year 7 girls' were runners-up in their tournament;
- Consistently high levels of participation across interhouse football competitions, particularly across the year 6 tournament, which will be finished in the new year. In year 7, Avon were crowned champions with a 100% record, whilst Brook won the year 8 league;
- A unique netball interhouse competition, held indoors due to the significant rainfall and seeing Hill take the trophy. Earlier in the term, Castle were worthy winners of the year 8 competition.

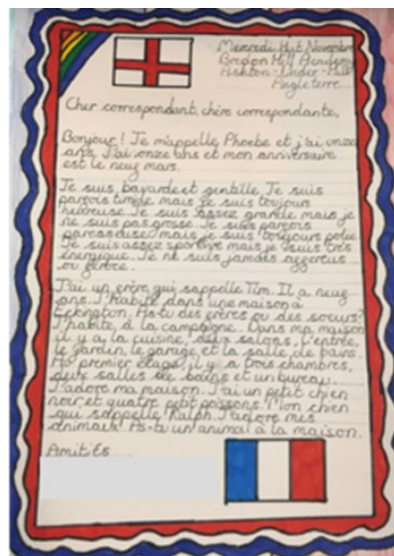
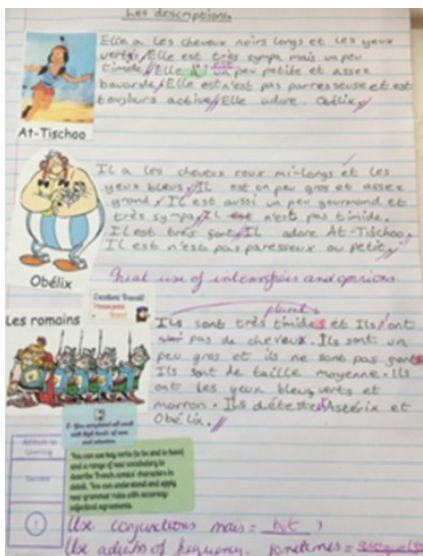




## Focus on French

This term, pupils in year 6 have developed the basics in French, ensuring that they can express themselves in full sentences and understand short, simple spoken and written passages. We have been very pleased with the engagement and interest of our pupils for this subject; it's been a very promising start to their language journey at BHA.

Year 7 pupils have enjoyed using a wide range of adjectives, intensifiers and the comparative, as well as the key verbs 'être' and 'avoir' to write detailed descriptions: descriptions of themselves in their first penpal letters and of the different characters in the 'Astérix and Obélix' comics.



Year 8 pupils have developed their cultural understanding of food and drinks in France and other French speaking countries. They also enjoyed finding out what typical meals consist of, and described their own typical, recent and future meals in detail, using key verbs in the present, past and future tenses. They also developed expressing longer opinions with a range of reasons.



This year again, we are continuing with our penpal exchange with our partner school in France, Le Collège Mauboussin in Mamers. All year 7 pupils have written their first letter and have received their first letters. Year 8 pupils have written letters describing their typical school day and expressing opinions about their different school subjects.

Madame Amzallag



## Focus on PSHE and Careers

In PSHE, Year 6 pupils have been learning about different types of families, Year 7 pupils have been learning about Parliament and Year 8 pupils have been learning about keeping themselves safe - financially, online and personally. Year 8 pupils have been learning about County Lines in the context of keeping safe and completed the year by watching 'Notice Me' - a film made and produced last year by pupils of their age at another middle school.



All pupils received a talk to help further their understanding of our fundamental British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. Delivered by a local PCSO, this helped pupils appreciate the impact and power of their words and actions.

Additionally, our Key Stage Three pupils had a presentation from West Mercia Police focusing on Operation Sceptre—a nationwide police campaign highlighting the dangers and impact of knife crime. Although we live in an incredibly safe area, we still feel it's important to raise

awareness of these issues across our school community. Both presentations were very well received, with some great questions raised.

We have been fortunate to have visitors to Bredon Hill Academy providing careers inspiration. Help2 Fly created an airport and aeroplane experience for some Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Two former alumni of Bredon Hill Academy came to give a very enlightening talk and interactive session about engineering apprenticeships on behalf of GE Aerospace. If you can offer support to our careers programme in any way, please contact [office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk).



During the final week of term, we had a great day of careers-related learning. Year 6 took a step into the NHS, learning about different career opportunities; year 7 completed the Warburton's Challenge of creating and marketing their own bakery products; year 8 learned all about CV writing skills.



## ***Focus on Music***

Our BHA Singers had the opportunity to perform with other singers from Prince Henry's High School and St Egwin's this term at a vocal workshop in November. About 60 voices, rehearsing a number of songs together, filled the classroom at PHHS. This workshop was our first joint venture of the year. Our second came when the three schools joined forces to help with the Advent Service at All Saints Church, Evesham on 7<sup>th</sup> December. BHA Singers gave a beautiful performance of 'Diamond Bright' during this service.



Following this performing success, 86 pupils were involved in our Christmas Concert on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Musicians, soloists and poets from all years took to the stage to present and perform a variety of festive numbers. It was a fantastic evening of entertainment that was enjoyed by more than 200 parents, carers, friends and family.

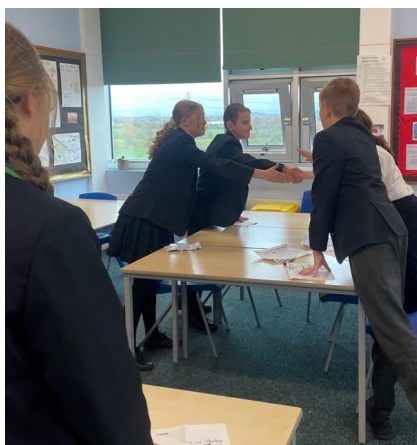




## Focus on Extra-Curricular

With 85% of pupils regularly engaging with our extra-curricular opportunities last term, our provision is thriving. There's something for everyone, from interhouse sports competitions to Minecraft, singing and bird-watching.

Our **Debate Club** gives pupils the space and opportunity to develop their listening, speaking and reasoning skills.



Each week, participants are given topics to discuss, explore and debate through a variety of games, activities and formal debates. This term we have been challenging ourselves to support our opinions with valid evidence.



In our recent 'big debate', pupils in year 8 discussed whether mobile phones should be banned in school, prompted by the Education Secretary Gillian Keegan's recent announcement in October that they should be. This was a lively debate whereby both sides gave well considered points and delivered thoughtful responses.

We have also discussed other important topics such as Winter vs Summer, online text vs writing, sweets vs chocolate and desert island must haves! We are very much looking forward our next term, kicking off with another 'big debate'.

**STEM Club** runs on every Wednesday at the beginning of lunch in Labs 1, 2 and 3—pupils across all year groups are welcome. This term has included various science based activities: spooky elephants' tooth-paste (in a pumpkin), a moss safari, bath bomb product development and much more.

Mrs Bartlett has been thrilled with the participation and interest generated from **Textiles Club**, which is a new addition to our range of clubs. Elsewhere, our pupils have been reliving their parents/carers' youth with the help of Mr Bailey's **Retro-Games Club**: finding out that games that used to take several minutes to load through a cassette and featured blocky graphics are far more entertaining than what's on offer nowadays!

Through popular demand, Mrs Oakley has resumed **Chess Club**, with a lovely mixture of novices and highly experienced players. From January, Mrs Dunkley will be running a **Rubik's Cube Club**—any spare good-quality 3x3 cubes that could be donated to the school would be gratefully received. Later in the term, we will also be looking to offer a **Pokemon Card Trading Club**, such is the level of popularity amongst pupils at present!





## And finally from Mathematics...

Each year, GCHQ send out a Christmas card with a twist. This year there were 7 puzzles to solve and then a very clever colourful code to crack. Mr Bailey, Miss Mann and Mrs Campbell all had fun solving the puzzles, which were all challenging in different ways.

Some of our year 8 students then had a go at solving the puzzles and all showed great resilience in their attempts. Four of our year 8 girls were successful in their mission. Well done to Maizy B, Amelia A, Rosie C and Mya P and Yuletide Felicitations to you all!



The challenge (and the solutions) are now available on the GCHQ website if anyone wants to exercise their brains over the holiday period! <https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/xmaschallenge2023>

# HAF it! 2023

## FUN WINTER CLUBS

FREE

AGE  
5-16  
YEARS OLD

Activities in Worcestershire for  
children and young people in  
receipt of benefits related FSM

[www.haf-it.co.uk](https://www.haf-it.co.uk)

SCAN ME