



A message from the Headteacher...




What a wonderful first term we have had. It only seems like yesterday that we welcomed everyone back. We have all been so impressed with how our pupils have adapted to their new school and new year group. We have had another really busy term with lots of learning and lots of extra-curricular activities. It is great to see our pupils enjoying school life and making the most of the opportunities available.

There have been quite a few changes so far this year. We were excited to open our two new classrooms in September and they are a real pleasure to teach in. Mr Baston and Mr Pearce have settled in well to their new rooms although I have heard a rumour that the corridor is too long for them so they use a scooter to get from one end to the other! We have had a significant update to our heating system, which we have certainly made the most of during the last week. You may have seen that our rather ugly chimney has been replaced and our new one is far less noticeable from the top of Bredon Hill.

Thank you to our parents and carers who came to our two workshops earlier this term and for your positive feedback. We plan to offer some more in the new year. We hope you enjoy reading the Autumn 2022 Newsletter and that it gives you an overview of what has been happening. To keep up-to-date with BHA events and news, please follow us (@BredonHAcademy) on Twitter and Facebook.

We are so proud of our pupils and how they embrace their learning, school life and our school values of belief, honesty and aspiration.

Once again, thank you for your support. We do appreciate it. The BHA staff wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Take care,

Debbie Weir 

Key Dates

Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 3rd January 2023—GREEN WEEK
Year 8 Parents' Evening (X Side)	Tuesday 7th February 2023 (3:30pm—6:30pm)
Year 8 Parents' Evening (Y Side)	Thursday 16th February 2023 (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 17th February 2023
Half Term	Monday 20th February—Friday 24th February 2023
Year 6 SATs Parents/Carers Information Evening	Tuesday 28th February 2023 (5:30pm-7:00pm)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (X Side)	Tuesday 14th March 2023 (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (Y Side)	Thursday 23rd March 2023 (3:30pm– 6:30pm)

Festive Fun!



In the final week of term, the weather has certainly provided the scenic backdrop for our celebrations. We've hosted our ever-popular traditional Christmas Lunch at the same time as raising funds for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day. Things got competitive on the final day with our form-based whole-school Christmas quiz led by Miss Lloyd and Mrs Dunkley, featuring rounds on 'Question of Sport', 'Where in the World' and awkward staff photos we'd rather have forgotten about in 'Back to School'. We've congratulated a host of hard-working pupils with individual achievements from planner awards to subject commendations in celebration assemblies.

After a slight change of plan caused by icy conditions, we were determined to still be able to hold our Christmas Carol Services so moved these to within school. Year 6 and 7 welcomed Rev. Caroline Green to their services, whilst year 8 welcomed Rev. Katryn Leclezio to help share in the yuletide readings, poems and resplendent carol singing. Each service also featured some fantastic performances from our BHA Singers and the following soloists: Eben G, Jorja F (year 6), Zoe H, Isla C (year 7), Grace W, Maisie C and George C (year 8).

We've been fully getting into the festive spirit at Bredon Hill Academy over the course of the final couple of weeks of this long and productive term.

Things got started with our End of Term Christmas Disco. With over 370 pupils attending, and being the first disco post-pandemic, it was a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate with a DJ, sweet treats, and some unique dance moves. Most impressive was the volume of pupils who knew all the words to all of the 90s pop classics played —you've clearly been teaching them well at home!



Festive Fun!



BHA Community



It's great to see Bredon's commitment to community spirit once again this term. Highlights have included raising £750 for Children in Need through doughnut sales, £67 for The Royal British Legion and £423 for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day.



Over two thirds of the school were rewarded with a certificate, doughnut and hot chocolate for being 'Zero Heroes' —consistently meeting our high expectations and going across the whole term without receiving a sanction.



The challenge is now on to see if these pupils can continue across the whole of the academic year in this way. All of our Zero Heroes can look for their names, on our Rewards Tree—it's full of pears in their House colours and show a

fitting reflection of our pupils' commitment to our core values of Belief, Honesty and Aspiration.

Congratulations also go to:

- Ava M in 8 Avon, who continues to excel in calf handling—winning several awards, including Champion Handler at the Moreton Show.
- Rose C-M in 6 Brook for podium finishes at the British Riding Club's National Championships.
- Zofia P in 7 Vale, Hebe G in 7 Tower and Lindsay A in 8 Castle for continuing their fine performances in the swimming pool with more medal successes at local and regional competitions.
- Olivia K for smashing her 'One Million Steps' challenge for Diabetes UK, raising £1000 along the way.
- Oscar T in 6 Brook, for winning his group under 12 competition in fencing at RGS Worcester.

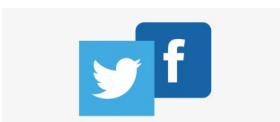




Focus on Personal Development

As part of our commitment to providing fantastic personal development opportunities to all our pupils, we're proud to offer a wide range of lunchtime clubs and after school activities. Well over 80% of our pupils regularly engage with our numerous clubs, using these chances to consolidate their learning, try something different and forge new friendships. From House sporting competitions through to curriculum enhancing clubs like Turing Tumbles or Minecraft; from the creative with Film Club or Journaling to making the most of our school grounds with Gardening or Bird-Watching, there really is something for everyone.

Our pupil leadership opportunities continue to go from strength to strength. We have a record number of prefects in year 8 for this academic year, ably supporting the smooth running of the school. Pupil Voice representatives meet half-termly and have recently made some great suggestions to improve our dining room experiences, whilst Eco-Reps are at the forefront of ensuring our school offers a sustainable vision for the future.



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 for Twitter and Facebook updates.

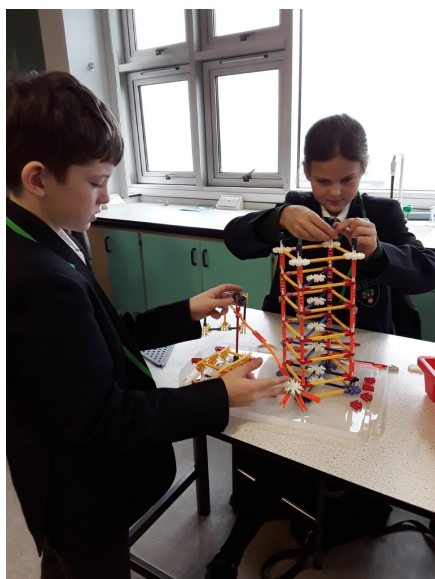
Focus on Science and Computing



Many pupils have attended the extra curricular activities offered by the science department this term.

Science clinic (Tuesday lunchtime) - this is a drop-in session where pupils are able to discuss work they have struggled with, receive support with home learning or go over any work they have missed due to absence. Well done to any pupils who have attended.

STEM club (Wednesday lunchtime) - STEM club continues to be well attended this year. Each year group has a separate session provided by Mrs Griffin, Mr Bailey or Mrs Huntly in different laboratories. We have looked at hand warmers, 'blood', testing various substances to see if they are acid, alkali or neutral to name a few examples. It is fantastic to see so many attending and new members are always welcome!



STEM workshop - a group of year 6 pupils had an opportunity to complete a STEM workshop during a Thursday morning. The aim was to make an automated warehouse using K'NEX and they were competing against one another. The winners for the school round were Lexi and Oliver who will go onto the next round and fingers crossed could get through to the final.

In **Computing**, congratulations go to Mr Bishop for helping BHA achieve the new national Computing Quality Mark, after successfully evaluating our computing education and demonstrating high quality provision. BHA completed all seven aspects of the CQF in order to receive the accolade, which recognises achievement in:

- Leadership and Vision
- Curriculum and Qualifications
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Staff Development
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and SEND
- Careers Education
- Impact on Outcomes



Claire Garside, senior lead facilitator at the NCCE, said; "Congratulations to BHA on becoming an NCCE 'Computing Quality Mark' school! You're among the schools leading the way to deliver high standards in computing education. The Computing Quality Mark recognises the quality of provision to ensure all students receive the computing skills and knowledge so valuable for today and in their future careers."

The National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) is funded by the Department for Education and supporting partners, to improve the provision of computing education in England. Since the NCCE's establishment in 2018, it has engaged with 34,000 teachers from more than 19,000 schools in England, created the Teach Computing Curriculum which has seen half a million downloads of lessons. It has now added the CQF to its provision.



Focus on Maths



TTRockstars - Throughout the Autumn Term, Year 6 have been working hard practising their times tables, as part of their home learning, which has had a positive impact in the classroom. To date, Year 6 have earned a whopping 3,827,154 coins between them, which is an average of 23,479 coins each! The top five earners are: Lola F, Phoebe F, Ophelia H, Jack S and Maisie J.

Nine pupils have achieved the top status of 'Rock Hero', with the top three fastest players being Elias S, Phoebe F and Eben G. On average, it takes Elias just 0.33 seconds to answer a question!

This term has culminated in pupils taking part in the England Rocks competition as part of Maths Week England. In a hard-fought battle over three days, our top three winners were Phoebe F, aka Piper Suhler, Jasper M, aka Roddy Iero and Lola F, aka Gabriella Wells. Congratulations to them and all other pupils who took part!



Careers and Maths—It is not always obvious how mathematics can be used in a career, so as a department we are keen to highlight areas in which pupils may use their mathematical skills in later life.

This term, pupils in 7X and 8Y groups have been able to participate in a virtual tour of an Amazon Fulfilment Centre. This live tour took them through the processes that take place from point of order to delivery of an item. There are six main processes involved: receive, stow, pick, pack, SLAM and ship – each of these was explained in detail. During the tour, the groups met employees and looked at their various roles but most fascinating was the use of robotics to

move stock around the warehouse. Did you know that the stock is stored in random places, rather than all similar stock being stored in one place? Robots move around the floor by scanning QR codes on the ground which instruct them where to move next.

Many of the processes were controlled by algorithms followed by computers and the robots. These ensure that the centre runs smoothly and there is minimum wastage in terms of packaging and delivery costs. The tour is free to anyone and we would highly recommend it. We hope to book 7Y and 8X groups onto one in the coming months.

Meanwhile, 8X have been looking at how they can develop their mathematical skills for use in a digital role by taking part in a WorldSkills Spotlight Talk. The focus of which was the range of opportunities that are available in digital careers and the routes through which these can be accessed. University courses, apprenticeships and T-Levels were all discussed as potential routes into these careers. Most intriguing here is the fact that many of these potential careers or jobs do not actually currently exist and we need to ensure that we have the skills in place for these roles without knowing what they will be. 8Y will have the opportunity to explore this area in the coming months.



Focus on English

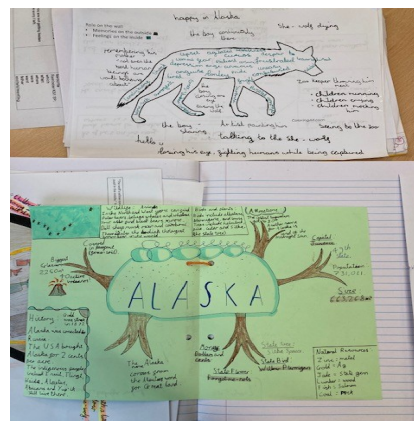
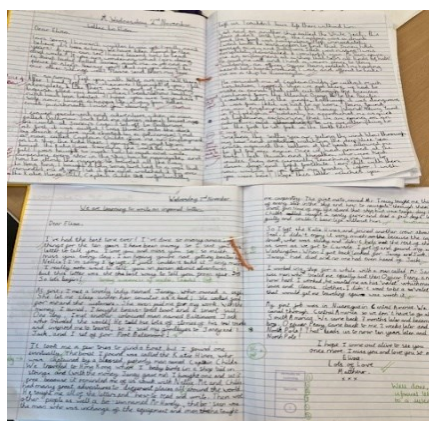
This term has been a busy and text-rich one. Students have been actively learning in English. Each day we see pupils showing their Academy values of belief, honesty and aspiration. We truly have been 'Learning Together for Success'.

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 students 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. 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. In particular, students developed vocabulary choices, sentence structures and paragraphing skills. 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 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 to close gaps and secure Year 6 spelling knowledge and practice. It's been great to see so many pupils use this great resource at home and particular credit goes to Jay P, Seb K and Elias S as the most active users so far.

Spellingframe

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

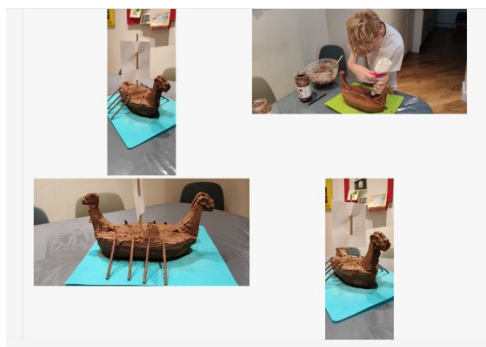
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beginning (be-gin-ning)
forgetting (for-get-ting)
forgotten (for-got-ten)
gardener (gar-den-er)
gardening (gar-den-ing)
limitation (lim-i-ta-tion)
limited (lim-it-ed)
limiting (lim-it-ing)
preferred (pre-ferred)
prefer (pre-fer)



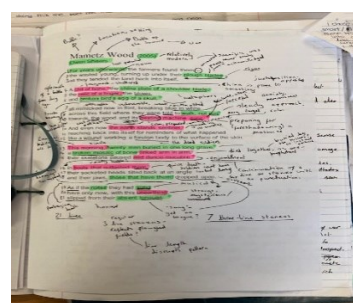
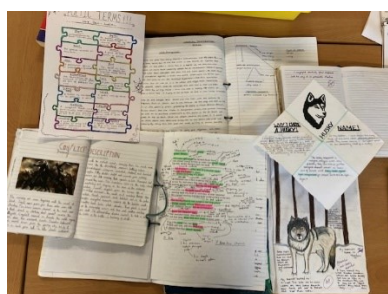
Year seven were welcomed back after a summer of reading to explore the concepts of heroism and villainy. The epic 'Beowulf' has been explored and dissected as a text coming from the English canon of literature. The year group have been challenged to begin their KS3 curriculum by questioning: how do students use quotes to support their opinions whilst exploring how writers construct continuous texts? 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 Chaucer and 'The Canterbury Tales'. We are thinking about how a medieval writer takes on and changes our perceptions of heroes and villains.

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: <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 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 students becoming famous 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 of poetry. They are producing some challenging poems themselves as they take their writing skills forward.



The whole school have experienced our Scholastic Book Fair. This gave pupils and teachers the opportunity to see, feel and discuss books. We made £538 and will put our 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 by Mrs Oakley and her team of staff and pupils. They have enjoyed helping pupils choose their next read and provide a quiet space for reading. Our clubs have been running through the term, and students have enjoyed creating films, writing challenges and reading. We are looking forward to shadowing the Yoto Carnegie Prize in 2023; the long list is announced in February. We enjoyed a visit from the writer and illustrator Jackie Morris who inspected our outside learning space and Literacy shed. It was inspiring for some of our students to meet her and ask her about her processes.

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.lovereading4kids.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 on our website too.

Focus on Foundation Subjects

In Religious Education, after spending some time exploring the historical and cultural contexts of Jesus, year 7 were recently challenged to combine their prior knowledge with their newly acquired knowledge to create their own representations of Jesus. They then had to explain their artwork to their peer group. Some very imaginative and well considered responses were produced across the year group.



Our pupils have been enthusiastic PSHE learners this term. Year 6 began the term having lessons which helped them in their transition and goal setting for the term. They then explored their identity and personal qualities. Lately, pupils have been learning about families as a start to their relationships education. Our political situation in the UK provided an interesting backdrop for our Year 7 unit learning about Parliament and democracy in the UK. Year 7 pupils are completing learning about what influences choices on healthy living. Year 8 pupils started the year thinking about essential skills they will need in the future. The lessons were provided by the Environment Agency so pupils were looking at environmental careers as well as ways in which companies may consider helping the environment, too. Year 8 pupils have also been learning about keeping safe - learning about County Lines, fraud and their digital footprint too. The PSHE curriculum has also been enriched by lessons in first aid and enterprise on Thursday afternoons.



Meanwhile in History, year 6 have just completed their first topic, 'What is History?', helping introduce the key skills they will need for future successes. Year 7 have finished their first topic on the Norman invasion of Britain, the highlight being the Battle of Hastings re-enactment with their own model weapons. Elsewhere, year 8 are in the middle of their first topic on crime and punishment, having just looked at witchcraft in the 17th Century. Pupils have been researching into the history of the school in History Club, using original documents such as photographs, and log books. This club will continue after Christmas.

In music this term, all year groups have been focused on developing their understanding of rhythm; performing and composing using a variety of musical patterns and starting points. Year 6 have looked at performing and composing melodies based upon names of some Greek Gods and Goddesses, while year 7 have developed rhythmical performances on percussion instruments. Recently year 7 have been improving their keyboard skills, learning more about keyboard technique and chords. At the start of this term year 8s tried performing rhythms based upon African countries, using traditional djembe drums – they were very loud lessons indeed! More recently year 8 have been performing riffs using a variety of musical instruments and improvising melodies over the top.



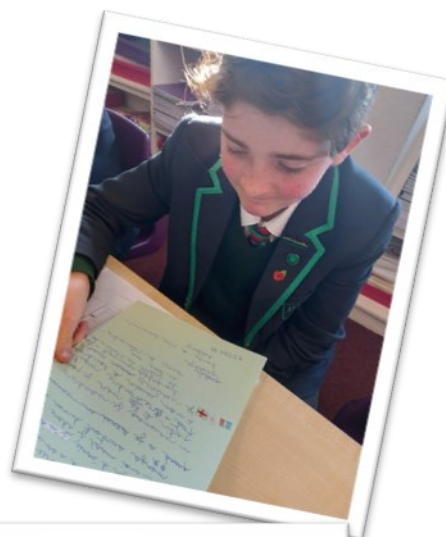
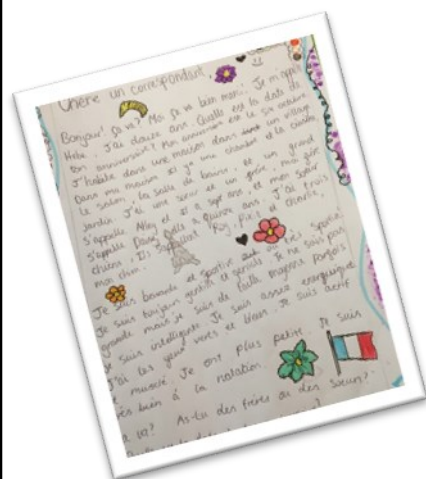
The BHA singers were able to take part in an Advent Service at All Saints' Church, Evesham alongside singers and musicians from Prince Henry's and St Egwin's; the music was absolutely beautiful.

Elsewhere, in art....



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 will receive replies shortly. Year 8 pupils are awaiting their next letter and will be writing about their town and shops in the new year.

We are also really excited that some of our year 7 pupils will be going to France in March 2023. They will be visiting our partner school and spending the days with their penpal, developing furthermore their French language and communication skills. We will also be visiting the medieval castle of Fougères and the Mont-Saint-Michel. Finally, we will be going to the market of Alençon and visiting a goat cheese farm. You will be able to follow this trip on our social media and see photos in the next newsletter!



Focus on Careers Education



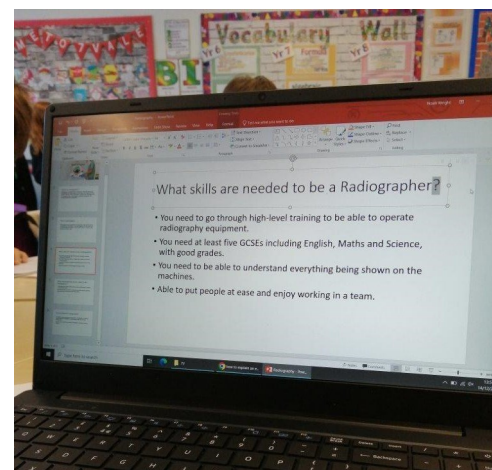
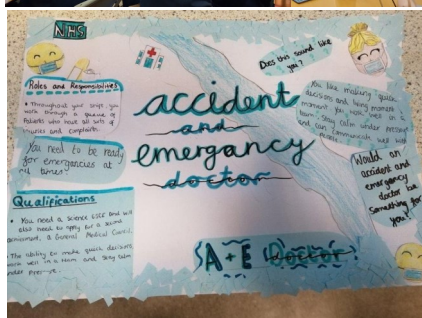
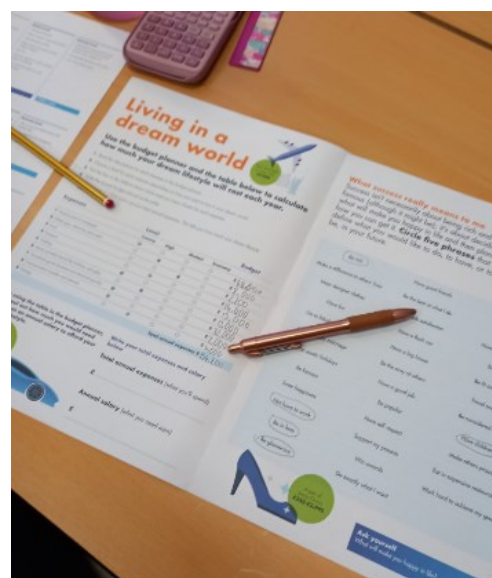
Bredon Hill Academy is committed to fulfilling its statutory responsibility for careers guidance. We continue to work closely with the Worcestershire Careers Hub in order to develop and embed our careers programme at BHA. Through the PSHE curriculum and our careers programme, we enable all our pupils to develop the skills and outlook they need to achieve career wellbeing.

We were pleased to welcome former pupil, Samuel Hopkins, a managing consultant for AND Digital working alongside us helping to progress and enhance our careers programme. Year 6 PSHE lessons have focused on key skills and goal setting. Some Year 6 pupils also recently participated in a STEM Challenge. Year 8s have been learning about the combination of personal skills and qualities needed in the world of employment. Some Year 8 pupils were fortunate to have Austin Bailey from CGI talk about careers in cyber security.

We had the Young Enterprise team helping us 'Learn to Earn' at the start of the month, where Year 8 spent the day learning about earning money and financial management. Covering everything from dream lifestyles to practical interview tips, the day was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Later in December, all pupils in the school spent the day taking part in the 'Step into the NHS' competition, which allowed them the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers using the NHS as a case study.

We welcome parent involvement in our careers programme and value the diverse experience outside speakers can offer to inspire our pupils. If you would like to be involved, please contact the school office via email: office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk.



Focus on Physical Education

It's been another hugely successful term for our pupils in sport, both within school and in numerous competitions and events across the local area. Our regional successes now mean we have many individuals and teams representing the school at county and national levels.



This includes our BHA Equestrian Team, who have qualified for the NSEA National Championships in May 2023 after tremendous success at the Eventers Challenge Competition in Cirencester. Well done to Lily H, Tilly O, Heidi P, Rose C-M and Holly M, who were often competing against far more experienced and older riders. Lily and Tilly, together with Fern W also podiumed at the NSEA Dressage Competition in Bromyard.

In football, our under 13 girls' team are looking to match the County Cup winning performances of last season's group and have started off well, winning all their friendlies against local teams before triumphing 5-4 in their opening round game against Nunnery Wood. We also won the 7-a-side under 13s district competition and, such is the strength of our girls' team, we were the only

school able to field two teams at the tournament.

Meanwhile, our boys' teams have also had a number of successes, most noticeably our year 7 team's domination of the District League, where they ran-out comfortable winners. Playing in 5 games against local schools, they won all of them, scoring 20 goals in the process and conceding just once.



Within school, a record high number of pupils have participated in our Inter-House Football Competitions. Tower have reigned victorious in years 7 and 8 so far, with some high scoring games and knockout performances. With a couple of rounds of games to go in the year 6 league, it remains to be seen whether 6 Tower can make it a hat-trick of successes.

In netball, BHA has had been highly successful, winning a string of friendly games across all year groups. In the year 8 Inter-House competition, Avon and Hill shared the spoils in a highly eventful and soggy contest played in some challenging weather conditions.



At the Panathlon Games, our year 7 team performed brilliantly to finish runners-up, whilst our year 6 team ended up one better as the South Worcestershire Champions—they now qualify for the area finals next year. The Panathlon Games cover a wide range of engaging activities, including kurling, table cricket and precision bean bag throwing.

Further successes were celebrated in the Sports Hall Athletics Competition, with our year 7 girls' team finishing runners-up whilst our boys' team won. Our year 8 girls' team also finished as winners whilst the boys' team finished fourth. Our two winning teams will now proceed to the county round in March, where they will proudly be representing South Worcestershire.

Meanwhile, in rugby, the school has benefited from a visiting coach from Gloucester Rugby within PE lessons; our girls' lunchtime club has proved extremely popular and the boys' tri-pairs rugby tournament is reaching an



exciting climax in years 7 and 8, alongside several successes in local friendlies.

Lunchtime sports clubs and competitions will continue across next term, with plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved. From House competitions through to improving personal bests in cross-country over the school field, sport continues to thrive at BHA.



House Point Update

Well done to all our pupils for their high levels of engagement, participation and achievement this term. A number of pupils have already achieved their bronze certificates, achieving at least 50 house points since the start of September. We look forward to awarding even more certificates next term! In the overall House competition, it's Hill who narrowly lead the way so far.

(House Point totals correct up to 15/12/22)



Avon
1808

Brook
1897

Castle
2157

Hill
2167

Tower
1927

Vale
2095

EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE FAMILY HUB:
WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUB

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