

## Academy Update

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Key Notices

#### **Last day of Term Arrangements**

The last day of term is fast approaching, and I would like to take this opportunity to let you know your child is required to wear their full school uniform on the last day of term but can wear a Christmas jumper if they would like. The day will finish at 1230/1235 and will be filled with fun to start the Christmas holidays.

#### **Mobile Phones**

There is a very powerful 2-part series on channel 4 called 'Swiped: The school that banned smart phones'. Children at a school in Colchester gave up their phones completely (not just in school) for 21 days. Following the 21 days, there was a 17% drop in anxiety symptoms, an 18% reduction in symptoms related to depression, the children slept an average of one hour extra per night and there was a 3% improvement in working memory. I would encourage you to watch this and speak to your children about it. Perhaps even suggest a complete phone detox to your children!

### This week at Bexhill Academy

#### **Sports Results**

**By Mr Petty, Director of PE**

Please see below the results from this week and the fixtures for next:

- Year 9 Boys Rugby vs Seaford Head – 35 – 12 win
  - Year 9 Boys Rugby vs Beacon – 43 – 5 win
- Year 7 and 8 Girls Sports Leaders at Little Common Primary School
  - Year 10 Boys Football vs Shoreham TBC

W/C Monday 16<sup>th</sup>:

Monday – Year 7 Girls Football vs St Richards @ Away  
Wednesday – Year 7 Boys Football vs Claverham @ Home  
Thursday – Year 10 Boys Basketball vs St Richards @ Away

As always, thank you for supporting our students as they represent the Academy.



## **SEND Football Tournament**

**By Mr Humphrey, Head of Year 8**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10 students took part in our first triangular SEND football tournament against Headstart and St Mary's. Each team played each other twice in very competitive yet good-natured games.

Bexhill won two out of the four games and drew one. Our students showed excellent determination and team work throughout. All students that participated from all schools worked collaboratively helping each other and supported each other during the tournament.

It was great to watch the progress that our students made, in which for many, was their first ever competitive environment. We look forward to hosting and participating in more of these events over the remainder of the year.

## **Girls Football Leadership**

**By Miss Deaveraux**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 12 female students from year 7&8 ran a football skill session for 50 year 6 girls at little common primary school. The students selected to lead this recently attended a girl's football leadership course.

During the session our Bexhill students showed fantastic organisation, communication and coaching skills, which lead to a successful outcome. At the start, the year 6 students were asked to stand behind a red, yellow or green cone depending on how confident they felt about the session, many students were behind the red and amber cones. By the end, most students were behind the green and feeling excited to develop their skills further.

I am extremely proud of the students, and we are looking forward to organising more!

## **Year 5 Latin Masterclass**

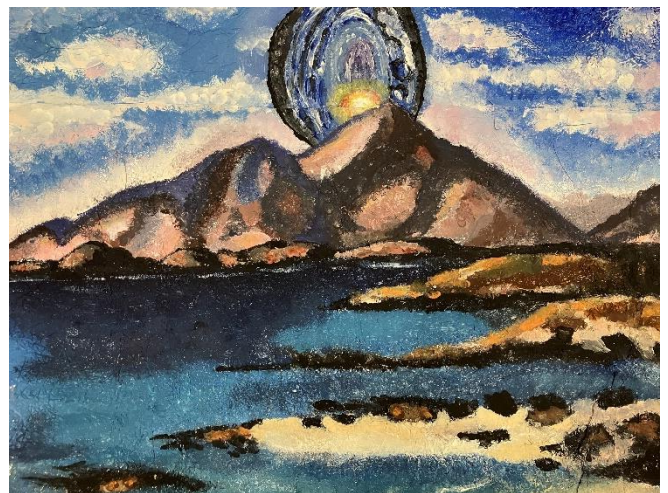
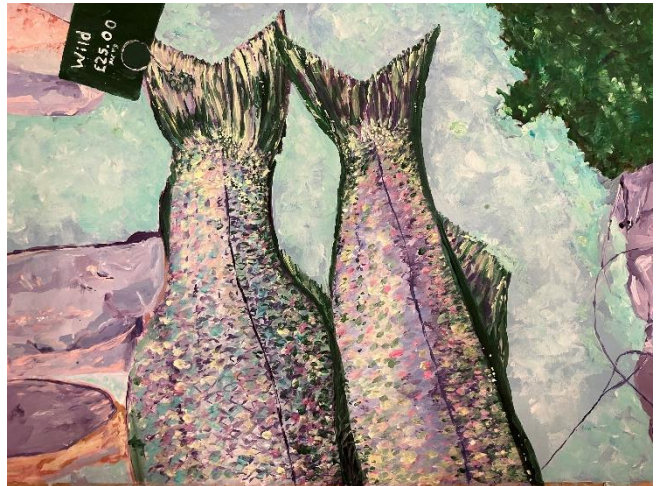
**By Mrs Lindsay, Head of Languages**

The Academy's Primary Masterclass programme had a magical end to the year on Wednesday afternoon when twenty-five students from our feeder primaries enjoyed a Latin Masterclass. We found out about the Latin we use in English every day and how Latin can help with our English vocabulary. Most importantly, we translated the spells from Harry Potter and used some on each other! Everyone was returned to their usual form before home time.

## Year 11 Art, Photography, Ceramics mock exams

By Mr Mayne, Head of Art

Students in Y11 have been sitting their mock exams for Art, Ceramics and Photography this week, each exam takes place over 2 days and allows the students to produce a final outcome for their GCSE coursework unit. We have been so impressed with the focus and concentration the students have shown, they have produced some outstanding pieces of work, and we are really proud of them. Please see some samples below.





## Elf Cinema event

**By Mrs Gordon, Senior Deputy Headteacher**

The Christmas activities are well underway at Bexhill Academy. We had the screening of Elf the movie on Monday night. Our numbers are increasing all the time with the events we are holding for parents and students. Please can I remind you, if you sign up, please try to attend as the numbers are limited and someone could take your place. Our next family event is on Tuesday at 530 for the Christmas concert (this is a shortened version), homemade festive goodies will be served. The link for this to sign up is <https://forms.gle/nFoyneD892FYvWjQ7>. The full concert is on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.



## Christmas Parties

**By Mr Steward, Assistant Headteacher**

A Festive Night of Fun at the Annual Christmas Parties

On the evening of Thursday 12th December, students from Years 7 to 10 gathered to celebrate the festive season at our much-loved Annual Christmas Parties. The night was filled with laughter, music, and dancing as students grooved to their favourite Christmas tunes.

Prizes were awarded for the best Christmas outfits, with some fantastic jumpers on display! The highlight of the evening was the highly anticipated Christmas Dance-Off, where Jacy once again proved that he is the undisputed king of the dance floor, leaving everyone in awe of his moves!

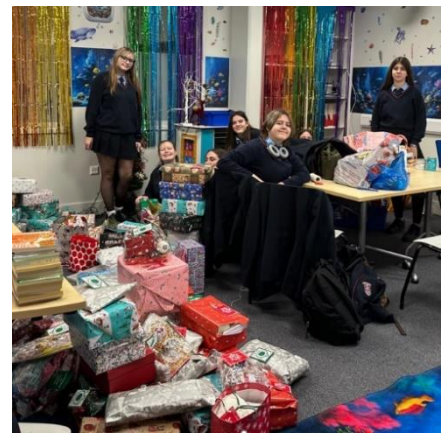
A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to help organise and run the event. Your hard work and dedication made the evening a memorable success, and we're already looking forward to next year's celebrations!

Happy holidays to all!

## Charity Shoebox Update

**By Mrs Gordon, Senior Deputy Headteacher**

We have over 180 presents including a variety of shoe boxes and other gifts. 10 big bags of food shopping and lots of tins. The pastoral team have identified specific need within the school, in addition the rest will go the Sidley marketplace on Monday for the Christmas charity stall on Tuesday to support families within Sidley and the local area. Our students' leaders will be representing the school at this. In addition, our prefects and ambassadors have all been helping. Thank you to all of the parents and carers that supported this very worthwhile cause. Well done to year 7 who contributed a huge amount.



## Winter Writing Competition

By Mrs Hamer, English Teacher

Please see below the announcement with the winners of the Winter Writing competition.

We were overwhelmed with the number of entries and the amazing quality of them. The winners will receive their prizes shortly.

Festive felicitations!

**Writing in a Winter Wonderland Short Story Competition**

Write a short story which begins with:  
*'It was so terribly cold. Snow was falling, and it was almost dark.'*  
 Be creative!

Your story can take any form. It could be a comic strip, a story board or a traditional short story. Be creative!

Closing Date: Friday 29th November

Submissions should be no longer than one side of A4. Submit on paper to: Mrs Hamer in G18 or via email to: [MrsHamer@brathillacademy.org](mailto:MrsHamer@brathillacademy.org)

Top prize: £50 Amazon Voucher  
 Second Prize: £20 Amazon Voucher  
 Third Prize: £15 Amazon Voucher

You will also get the opportunity to share your story with our local community!

Thank you to all 62 students who entered the competition! We received some absolutely fantastic stories and really enjoyed reading them.

Congratulations to our winners below. You will receive your prizes shortly!

<b>1</b>	OF 9BA9
<b>2</b>	PO 7BA2
<b>3</b>	YW 8BA1

**Special Mentions:**

- RP CON9
- NM 7BA7
- TS 9BA6
- SRF 10BA6
- FB 9BA8
- MB 8BA6
- HD 8BA3
- ES 7BA7
- KD 8BA9
- AG 8BA1

## Science – Year 10 Leaf Microscope Images

By Mrs Minns – Director of Science

In our latest biology practical, students had the opportunity to delve into the microscopic world by examining the stomata of the Wandering Dude plant (*Tradescantia zebrina*). This hands-on activity not only enhanced their understanding of plant physiology but also honed their microscopy skills.

The Practical

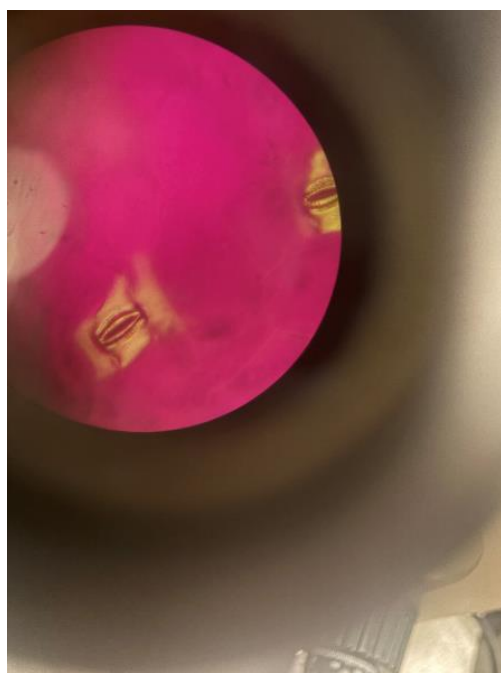
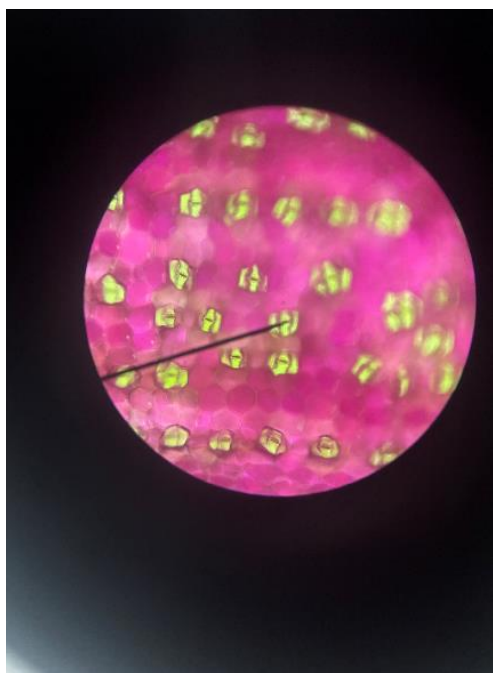
Using light microscopes, students prepared slides of the Wandering Dude plant's leaves. The students started by simply studying the underside of the plant leaf to observe the stomata. They then painted the leaves with clear nail varnish and used this to provide an imprint of the stomata.

Under the microscope, students observed the stomata—tiny openings on the leaf surface responsible for gas exchange. The stomata appeared as small pores surrounded by guard cells, which regulate their opening and closing. This practical provided a clear view of how plants exchange gases and maintain their water balance.

Students learned essential microscopy techniques, including slide preparation, focusing, and magnification adjustments. They also practiced changing the magnification and focus.

#### Conclusion

This practical was a fascinating glimpse into the intricate details of plant life, showcasing the importance of stomata in plant survival. The images captured during the session are below, highlighting the beauty and complexity of the microscopic world.



#### Dates for your Diary

- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 11 Christmas Party (6.30-9.30pm at the Academy)
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Concerts
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 1230 finish** – End of Term 2. Full school uniform plus optional Christmas jumper

#### Term Dates

- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Start of Term 3
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – End of Term 3
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Start of Term 4
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 12.30pm finish** - End of Term 4
- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Start of Term 5
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday – The Academy is closed
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – End of Term 5
- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Start of Term 6
- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 12.30pm finish** – End of Term 6.