

the bulletin

Head Teacher welcome

Dear All

Welcome to the relaunch and rebranded Bulletin.

This publication used to be a school-produced celebration, published three times a year. However, the Sixth Form students are playing a much greater part in putting it together, led by the student Communications Lead, Lauren Devine and supported by the Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Pykett.

This Bulletin is there to celebrate our amazing school. In spite of everything that we have faced this term, there have been some incredible achievements, and I hope that you will enjoy reading about them.

You may have noticed a couple of Facebook postings right at the end of term, because we've been quiet for a while. This regular view of the everyday life of the school will continue next term and we hope to keep you more informed of "goings on".

We shared our successes really well during the lockdown periods, but haven't kept that channel of communication going. So, from January, our New Year's resolution will be to take more time to share and celebrate what this community's wonderful young people are capable of.

#WeAreBuckinghamSchool

#ProudToBeBuckingham

#Buckingham



Swan House won the House Competition this term and have enjoyed their extra non-uniform day today. Huge numbers of our Virtues-based rewards are given for everyday commitment to academic work, alongside all of the other activities that go on. We will be sharing more of these moments with you going forward. At the time of writing this piece, we have awarded a total of 108,763 rewards. As a result of these rewards, students have been acknowledged in front of their peers, we've called home, they've enjoyed non-uniform rewards, students have been given queue jumps for the dining rooms and even been invited to a special performance of Matilda. Around 20 will be having lunch with me when we come back, in January!

Of course, Matilda. What a way to end Terms 1 and 2! A term that began with celebrations of new facilities and record numbers of students, continued with two heavily oversubscribed Open Events (For Year 6 and Year 12), finished with song and dance!

Merry Christmas to everyone, and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mr Lyne, Geography teacher, has now been appointed as the new Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator. He is looking forward to meeting the Y9 students who are keen to get involved with the Duke of Edinburgh programme and those students who would like to continue with their DofE journeys. Further communication regarding this will be coming out soon.

Head of Year

"Year 8 have made a fantastic start to the year and have stepped up to the task of being fantastic role models for our new Year 7's. They have consistently demonstrated the school Virtues and have shown incredible resilience with the challenges that the school year has given them.

I am incredibly excited to be able to welcome back Chromebooks to the Year Group in the not so distant future, as the students showed how effectively they can be used to aid their learning in lessons.

The Year Group have also had great success in both sport and music. The Year 8 Boys Football Team are currently awaiting their opponents in the semi-final of the County Cup and we have also had many Year 8's representing the school in the school show of Matilda.

Looking forward, I cannot wait to hear about the many successes of our Year Group both in the classroom and in the wider community. Have a fantastic Christmas!"

Mr Lagdon

"Year 11...what a term we have had! Year 11 kick-started the year with Mock Exams. The Year Group overall has been incredible! Despite the colder weather settling in and the Sports Hall being colder than ice some mornings, Year 11 have conducted themselves in a superb manner, with respect demonstrated to our Exam Invigilators.

We have had some highlights already this term, with students leading up our Anti-Bullying campaign, supporting in Student Voice and several taking up the lead roles in the school show. I couldn't be prouder being the Year 11 Head of Year!

We have a hugely important term approaching, with the next round of Mocks just around the corner. It is still unknown what exams will look like in the summer and as a school will continue to support you with your endeavors.

As always, the resilience of Year 11 never continues to amaze me! Have a wonderful restful Christmas. Stay safe, and enjoy."

Miss Checkley

Sixth Form

We are proud of how Year 12 have settled in to Sixth Form life. Students completed their Progress Assessments at the beginning of October and are completing the term with in-class assessments. Feedback to students will continue to take place in the New Year.

Year 13 students recently completed Mock Exams and have had feedback on how to further improve in their February Mocks.

Year 12 students studying Finance and Year 13 students studying Criminology, Law, Business, Finance and Health and Social Care, will return in the New Year to BTEC exams. The exams contribute towards their final grades. The Christmas break will give students a much-needed rest and an opportunity to fully prepare for the up coming exams. After Christmas, more tutor time revision sessions will take place on top of usual timetabled lessons and after school revision classes.

If students have a change of finances throughout the school year, please contact Mrs Gibson-Smith to see if you are eligible for Bursary funding.

Should a student worry about any aspect of Sixth Form life, there is a team of support in place. In the first instance, speak with the Form Tutor. Head of Year, Mrs Gibson-Smith will support students in overcoming any issues arising. Mrs Simmons leads on Academic Standards in the Sixth Form including the study skills weekly programme.

How do you feel your Sixth Form experience has been?

Alisha Carter, Year 13; “Overall, I have had a good experience here in Sixth Form so far. There have been some ups and downs, a bit like a rollercoaster, however, these events have taken place to allow me to be where I am today. I have felt well supported throughout and there is always someone to talk to about any concerns or worries. During Covid, I found it hard to learn remotely, I am a visual learner and often it was difficult not being able to be in a classroom environment. But the school ensured that we kept to a routine like a normal school day, that allowed me to keep structure into my day and keep on top of my lessons/school work. My teachers emailed me regularly and met online to see how I was doing and to see if I needed any help or support which I found very reassuring and it was nice to be able to keep in touch via email.”

The first term of Sixth Form, this academic year has allowed our new and previous students to return into the flow of life at Buckingham. This previous term has held Year 13 Mock Examinations, a Remembrance Day service organised by Mr Mandel and Head of School Ewan Taylor; The Sixth Form Open Evening, which many students volunteered to give tours or help promote subjects alongside their teachers, and finally anti-bullying week, which successfully raised over £300.

The Sixth Form Open Evening was a highly successful night with a great turn out. Mr McGinnes introduced the evening, along with Mrs Pykett, the Director of Sixth Form and Ewan Taylor. Prospective students and their families were toured around the school and shown the exciting facilities of our new science labs, the art and photography studio and dark room, as well as the Sixth Form block where post-16 students spend most of their time.

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces alongside new external visitors who we hope will all join us in September 2022.

Year 11 students have all spoken to Mrs Pykett before the Christmas break to confirm the subjects they want to study in Sixth Form. In addition to making your online application, we also require all students to write a supporting statement and have this emailed to us at sixthform2021@buckinghamschool.org

Students have received a Sixth Form application pack and can access all application information from the school website.

Please note we will accept Sixth Form applications after the exam results in August 2022. Applying early helps the Sixth Form team to fully prepare each year for the changing needs and wants of the Year 11 students joining us next September.

Before you apply, we urge that you make sure that you have:

- Researched the courses that you wish to take (you can read the information on the courses [here](#))
- Read the guidance for completing your supporting statement (this can be found [here](#))
- Read the SIMS Portal instructions to help you when applying for a place. ([SIMS Portal](#))

Details of the application process will also be posted on the 'Year 11 Sixth Form & Careers' Google Classroom.

To find out more about Sixth Form at The Buckingham School, please contact Mrs Amber Dye, Sixth Form Admissions Officer at sixthform@buckinghamschool.org or telephone 01280 812206.

Introducing the Sixth Form Student Voice Team

The Autumn term saw the successful appointments of the new Sixth Form Student Voice Team. The students will be working closely in all aspects of school life to bring about change through partnerships with students, staff, parents and the wider community.

Head of School, Ewan Taylor

“I have recently been appointed Head of School. With regard to this past term, I took part in commemorating the service men and women on Remembrance Day, where I conducted a speech to the school in an effort to ensure those men and women are not lost to history. On the 11th November, I also took part in a Sixth Form Open Evening where we welcomed

many eager prospective students into the school. Although many seemed unsettled at first due to the unpredictability of Covid 19, it appeared that the students were put at ease with the knowledge that The Buckingham School is there to support them; this applies to all external students, not just our current students.

It has been a busy term but I wouldn't have it any other way and I look forward to next term where I can begin to make a difference. For the term starting 6th January, I intend to look at the Personal Development curriculum and to ensure students are not only learning about the key issues of the day, but are learning crucial life skills to help them adapt to adult life when they leave The Buckingham School.

Finally, one other aspect of school life I will be looking to change is the system in which foundation and higher papers are allocated to students. I believe each student is fully capable of obtaining the highest grades. It is simply my dream to provide each student with the option to challenge themselves. My job is to ensure each student achieves success and I intend to be a catalyst in their development. However, each student's success will not look identical as success is subjective; if the student deems themselves to be a success by the time they have left the school, they are certainly a successful student."

Deputy Head of School, Zaria Mmanga

"Recently I have taken on the role of Deputy Head of School, having the opportunity to work alongside the students and young voices wanting to contribute to our school and leave it a better place for students than when we arrived. Within this role, I will get the chance to work with some of my friends and peers as we all share a common goal with differing ideas.

As of last term, I have contributed towards the Buckingham School Sixth Form Open Evening, touring parents of hopeful new students to begin their post-16 education.

I am also passionate about the vast opportunities that are offered to us after Sixth Form and how to express those opportunities to our students to broaden their horizons and provide motivation as well as assistance in our aspirations. This E-newsletter will be my latest contribution and will provide the parents of this school with some insight into our achievements and latest endeavours, exploring different subjects and school life."

Deputy Head of School, Shannon Gibbard

"I'm the Deputy Head of School which means that I'm here to support Ewan as Head of School and Zaria as the other Deputy Head of School. Within this role, I am able to contribute something to my school. So far, I have helped with the Sixth Form Open Evening, touring parents, and attended anti-bullying events with the Head of Anti-Bullying, Elysia. I will actively contribute to leading changes across the school using Student Voice campaigns to bring about change."

Head of Equality, Lucia Sagripanti Natel

"I wish to express my gratitude in having the opportunity to spend time with students and teachers in making the school a better place. As cliché as it may sound, I truly believe that we can make a difference when students with different backgrounds and understandings come together to exchange ideas and concepts into how we can make school a welcoming, safe place, inclusive to everyone and how we can prevent certain negative experiences from taking place. From raising awareness we will drive several key cultural changes. I am keen to drive cultural changes across the school community using Student Voice to ensure all voices are represented and included."

Head of Community Matters, Jack Glass

"Our community is extremely important, not only to our school, but also to everyone that lives around Buckingham. I have recently been given this opportunity to become the Head of Community Matters and I will strive to ensure that the school and all of our students will help to make our community a better place. I am looking forward to working alongside students across all Year Groups, making sure their voices get heard when talking about such crucial issues. I believe that taking care of our environment, both inside and outside of school, helps to promote a positive attitude in day to day life. Communication and building relationships with organisations outside of the school environment will also be key to the development of students' communication and team working skills. Not only do I want to contribute to helping our community, but also allow students to become more environmentally aware for the future."

Communications Lead, Lauren Devine

"I have recently undertaken the position of Communications Lead and I plan on highlighting and sharing with you all of Buckingham's achievements and celebrations, news and notices, as well as any current opportunities throughout the school that students can get involved with. You can find all of this information within this E-Newsletter, and this will be updated each term. I hope for this E-Newsletter to become a key staple and to reflect what the culture is like here at Buckingham; whilst inspiring, raising awareness and providing enriching opportunities for students that they can take with them and use after their time here at the Buckingham School."

Anti-Bullying Lead, Elysia Axtell

"Bullying is an issue in today's society and is something that continually needs to change. I have recently been given the opportunity to become the Year 13 Anti-Bullying Lead. I work with Mrs Wallace and a team of students to support those who may be experiencing bullying in and outside of school. I aim to help make the school a safer environment and allow students to stand up for themselves and feel confident inside and outside of school. Identify/educate, report/resolve and restore harmony through systems in place to ensure anti-bullying is an ongoing conversation until an effective strategy actively resolving issues as they arise."

Lead Photographer, Alex Mitchell

"As a Year 13 Photography student at the school, I am keen to photograph and celebrate school events across the wider community. It was great fun attending the Matilda performance this week; I hope you enjoy the photographs in the Bulletin."

Houses

Below is the end of term House Leader Board. Students continue to be rewarded House Points when the school Virtues are recognised and celebrated.

Ranking	House	House points
1 st	Swan	15867
2 nd	Silverstone	14186
3 rd	Whittlebury	13936
4 th	Stowe	13448
5 th	Claydon	12727
6 th	Chandos	11753

Rewards for top students in each House this term will include: Dinner with the Head Teacher in the new year and a matinee performance of the school show on Thursday 16th December.

Swan House, the overall winning House for the term, are rewarded with a non-uniform day on the last day of term. Well done Swan!

THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL VIRTUES

As members of this School, we will:

Build **AMBITION** by:
Having long term targets and be open to new opportunities.
Explore the pathways available to help reach our goals.

Strive to act with **CONFIDENCE** by:
Seeking out and taking up new challenges.
Celebrating our successes, learn from our mistakes and believe in ourselves.

Treat all members of the community with **RESPECT** by:
Treat others as you want to be treated.
Showing you care about others' feelings and wellbeing and appreciate all aspects of the world around you.

Display **EMPATHY** by:
Being mindful of the impact of our actions and words on others.
Trying to see a situation through someone else's eyes.

Strive to develop **RESILIENCE** by:
Respond positively to difficult situations.
Overcome barriers, bounce back and never give up.

Act with **INTEGRITY** by:
Doing the right thing even when nobody is watching.
Making the choice to be a good person and keeping your word.

Encourage **CURIOSITY** by:
Having a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves, others and the world around us.
Recognising that the questions you ask about the world are more important than the questions you can answer.

STUDENT



VIRTUES

After school opportunities

If you have not already attended the after school clubs this term, come along in the New Year!

Extra-Curricular Activities 2020-21



		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
Break	Title	Huff and Puff		Huff and Puff		Huff and Puff		Huff and Puff		Huff and Puff
	Year group	7		7		7		7		7
	Venue	Sports Hall		Sports Hall		Sports Hall		Sports Hall		Sports Hall
	Day	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
	Time	11.00-11.20		11.00-11.20		11.00-11.20		11.00-11.20		11.00-11.20
	Staff contact	Sports Leaders (JRI)		Sports Leaders (JRI)		Sports Leaders (JRI)		Sports Leaders (JRI)		Sports Leaders (JRI)
Lunch	Title	Chess	KS3 Art	KS4/5 Basketball	Dr. Frost Maths clinic	Badminton	Science Club	Badminton	Girls Group	Badminton
	Year group	ALL	Year 7-9	Years 10-13	ALL	Years 7-8	Year 7	Years 9-10	ALL	11-13
	Venue	M5	A2	Sports Hall	IT2	Sports Hall	S6	Sports Hall	SS1	Sports Hall
	Day	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday
	Time	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10
	Staff contact	MFO	PSL	JRI/JMA	RCO	CLA	CHO/AKA	VKE	PMC	CCO
	Title	KS3 Basketball	Y11 Music							TBS Band
	Year group	Year 7-9	Y11							ALL
	Venue	Sports Hall	P2							P2
	Day	Monday	Monday							Friday
	Time	13.20-14.10	13.20-14.10							13.30-14.00
	Staff contact	DRI	CNA							CNA
After school	Title			KS3 Dance	Drama Club	Pon Choir	Acting and dancing show rehearsals		Football	Girls' Rugby
	Year group			Years 7-9	ALL	ALL	ALL		ALL	ALL
	Venue			Dance studio	P1	P2	Drama/Dance studio		Sports Field	Sports Field
	Day			Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Thursday
	Time			15.10-16.10	15.10-16.30	15.10-16.30	15.10-16.30		15.10-16.10	15.10-16.10
	Staff contact			RCU	CCH	CNA	RCU/CCH		JRI/CLA	CCO
	Title			Girls' Football	Rugby		Badminton	Warhammer/3-D printing/VR Gaming club	Computing Club	Performing Arts Rehearsals
	Year group			ALL	ALL		ALL	ALL	ALL	Must be requested with teacher
	Venue			Sports Field	Sports Field		Sports Hall	DT2	IT2	Drama/Dance studio
	Day			Tuesday	Tuesday		Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
	Time			15.10-16.10	15.10-16.10		15.10-15.50 - All welcome 15.50-16.30 - Squad players	15.10-16.30	15.10-16.20	15.10-16.10
	Staff contact			CCO/VKE/DRI	JRI/CLA/JRY/RLE		JRI	MMC	LTO	RCU/CCH
										CNA

Period 6- after school revision sessions for Year 11 and 13 2021- 22

Period 6 Y11 & 13 support - 2021/22



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week A/B		Science - S2 French - L1 Dance practical - P3 GCSE Art (CFR) - A1 A-Level Photography - A3 GCSE History - H1/H2/H3 - rotating on a three-weekly basis GCSE PE - PE1 Maths A-Level - M5 Y13 Business - Google Classroom (Week A only) Y11 BTEC PE Tech Award - PE1 Y11 Business - BS1	Y11 English - English classrooms Spanish - L1 GCSE Art (VRI) - A1 Y11 Music rehearsals - P2 A-Level Psychology - CFE3 Computer Science - IT1 Chemistry - S1	Maths GCSE - M2 A-Level Photography (CFR) - A3 Drama rehearsals - P3 BTEC Construction - DT1/3 FPN DT3 A-Level Psychology - CFE3 Y13 BTEC Sport - PE1	Y11 Psychology - CFE3 A-Level Biology - S4

Enrichment Week 2022

Those of you with children in Year 9 or above, may remember Enrichment Week 2019. For those of you who are new to us since 2019, Enrichment Week is a week where students are off timetabled lessons for the week in order for them to engage with activities both in and out of school that contribute to their wider development. Activities have previously included Alpaca Walks, Geocaching, Science Weeks, Tea Parties, Vegan Cookery, etc. We are very excited to be in the initial planning stages of next year's Enrichment Week and look forward to getting more information out to you in the New Year!

Year 12 students will have the opportunity during Enrichment Week to organise a full week of work experience in a likely future career pathway. Previously, students have experienced what it is like to commute to London for a week, work in other parts of the country, shadowing a relative in their work place.

Friends of Buckingham School (FOBS)

A huge thank you to those of you who have completed the recent survey regarding FOBS. We are looking forward to our first committee meeting and planning some exciting events for families to get involved with over the next academic year and beyond. We hope that you will be able to get involved in one way or another, whether it is attending events and meeting other families or supporting fundraisers to enrich the students' school day.

To celebrate Christmas and to incorporate the community of Buckingham, we are raising awareness for Save the Children by wearing Christmas jumpers. By wearing a jumper, students will donate £1 and the proceedings will go to Save the Children. In addition, keeping with the Christmas spirit, Buckingham Parish Church are hosting their next Carol Service at 6pm, 19th December 2021.

Anti-Bullying

The school has a zero tolerance to bullying and clear procedures in place. Bullying is a huge issue within today's society and is something that needs to change. The Anti-Bullying team aims to help make the school a safer environment and allow students to stand up for themselves and feel confident inside and outside of school. For more information on how the school deals with bullying, please go to the school website; [Anti-Bullying](#) or feel free to contact us @ antibullying@buckinghamschool.org



The week beginning 15th November was Anti-Bullying Week. The theme was "One Kind Word". The Anti-Bullying Team arranged a week's worth of events in order to raise awareness on bullying and to raise money for future events to show our support towards anti-bullying.

The week consisted of:

- Monday 15th Nov - Odd socks day, bring £1
- Tuesday 16th Nov - Cake & drinks sale on main playground.
- Wednesday 17th Nov - Teacher V Teacher dodgeball (50p entry)
- Thursday 18th Nov - Photo Booth in A2 (free)
- Friday 19th Nov - Waxing teachers legs (50p entry)
- Mr Wise, Mr McElroy, Mr Middleton & Mr Lagdon all took part

Student first team

We aim to provide an all embracing service for our students, working together to develop and maintain their social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing. The team consists of members of staff all of whom have a wealth of experience in their own areas of expertise. The aim is to always put students first and offer them support and guidance, as well as providing necessary support for parents and carers. We also refer to and work with organisations who provide additional support for young people and their families when necessary. We liaise with staff, parents and outside agencies to provide the best outcomes for our young people and support them with any barriers they may face in their learning and personal achievement.

The team works closely with Form Tutors, Heads of Year and their respective teams, to maximise the learning potential for our students. By having this close working relationship, we are able to help identify and support students who may be experiencing difficulties which could be a barrier to their learning and social wellbeing.

The Buckingham School is totally committed to inclusion and values diversity. We understand difficulties, recognise and respect individual differences so all students feel valued. We provide targeted support through Student First and the SEND team for students identified as having a special educational need (a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age).

Meet the Team...

Julie Branch

Julie is the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Manager and manages the SEN team of Higher Level/Teaching Assistants.

Julie is responsible for the planning and implementation of SEND provision across the school and also for ensuring all statutory elements of SEND are delivered, both in school and to the Local Authority, in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

jbranch@buckinghamschool.org Telephone. 01280 812206 ext: 248



Abi Wallace

Abi is the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and she is responsible for overseeing any case of reported bullying.

The school has a zero tolerance to bullying and clear procedures in place. To learn more, please read our Anti-Bullying leaflet and refer to our website.

awallace@buckinghamschool.org Telephone. 01280 812206 ext: 272



Jo Goodger

Jo is Director of Welfare and Attendance and one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads within school. Jo works with students and families who are supported by agencies, liaising with agencies both inside and outside of school. Jo acts as a source of information and expertise regarding child protection and safeguarding matters. She also works with children who are in local authority care.

When students attend school on a regular basis, they achieve better academic results, their confidence grows and self-esteem increases. Jo supports individual students to ensure they attend school, helping with strategies to overcome any barriers, including meeting with parents through home visits as well as school meetings.



The school has a strong working relationship with the local Schools' Police Officer and Jo works closely with their team, addressing individual issues that arise, or sharing information that may be of particular interest to the whole school community. Jo is also Assistant Head of Year 7.

jgoodger@buckinghamschool.org Telephone. 01280 818684

Paula McGinnes

Paula is Therapeutic Mentor and one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads within school. Paula supports, guides and gives advice to individual students to help them better manage their emotional health, mental health and wellbeing.



She recommends strategies for students to overcome any barriers to learning and wellbeing in their school life and personal life. She works closely with students and staff taking a holistic approach to gain positive outcomes. Paula uses therapeutic interventions, including the use of Solution Focused Brief Therapy with students and focuses work around stress, anxiety, self esteem and confidence building. The support she offers is bespoke to each individual student helping promote positive attitudes, values and behaviours. Her approach to wellbeing is of a preventative nature. Paula also liaises with families, carers and outside agencies, where necessary. Paula's experience is from the social care background including an extensive skill-set in key areas within social services. Paula is a qualified Therapeutic Counsellor with an accredited Diploma in Counselling.

Paula has also undertaken the role of reviewing Sexual Harrasment policy and providing information and support about sexual harrasment and how it can be spotted and stopped, as this has become a growing concern within this generation. She is currently working with Mr Mandel and the rest of the Personal Development Team in hopes to push for sexual harrasment to be a key topic within this lesson.

As well as this, Paula has also incorporated a new lunchtime event every Thursday for female pupils from any year to voice their opinions on important matters and topics they feel strongly about. This week's theme, 2nd December 2021, is "Female empowerment." She is also reaching out to external visitors to come into school and vocalise thoughts on harassment to students at the school.

pmcginnes@buckinghamschool.org Telephone. 01280 812206 ext: 256

For more information on mental health and harassment feel free, to look at the websites provided below;

[BEAT](#)

[Young Minds](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[The Mix](#)

[MIND](#)

[Mental Health Foundation](#)

[Childline](#)

To contact the Student First Team, for wellbeing issues, the email address can be found on the school website. The email will be monitored by key staff.

studentfirst@buckinghamschool.org

Art

Pupils in Year 9 have been studying the work of the British Artist Ruth Piper.

They have drawn designs inspired by her brightly coloured Abstract pictures before producing 3D relief pieces using card and paint. Here are just a few examples by students in 9 Swan.



Lilli Bitmead



Chloe Pool



Calum Doyle



Will Cochrane



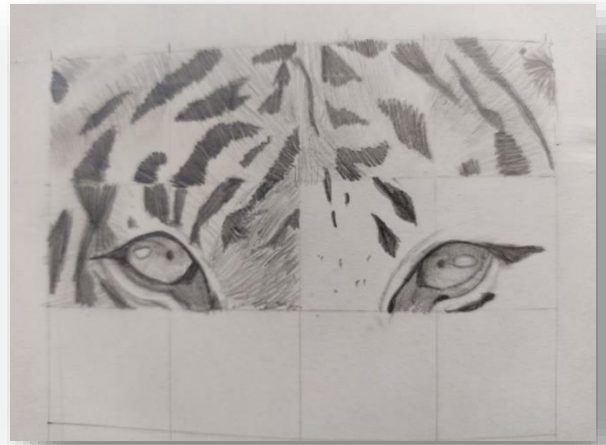
Jacob Harwood



Lewis Williams

In Year 7, we have been working on an animal project. Felicity is showing some sustained drawing skills already.

Year 7 Felicity Balster

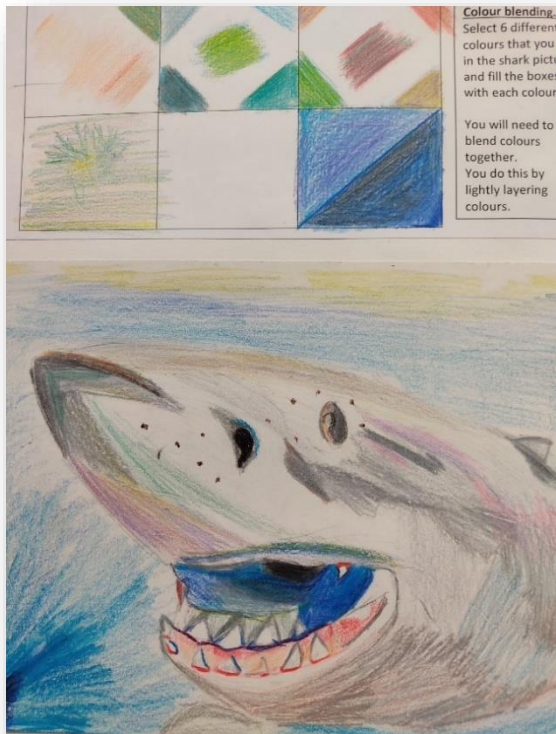


In Year 8, we have been working on an insects and Cubism project. Addison has remained so focused and is achieving really good outcomes. Once finished, her work will look amazing.

Year 8 Addison Martin

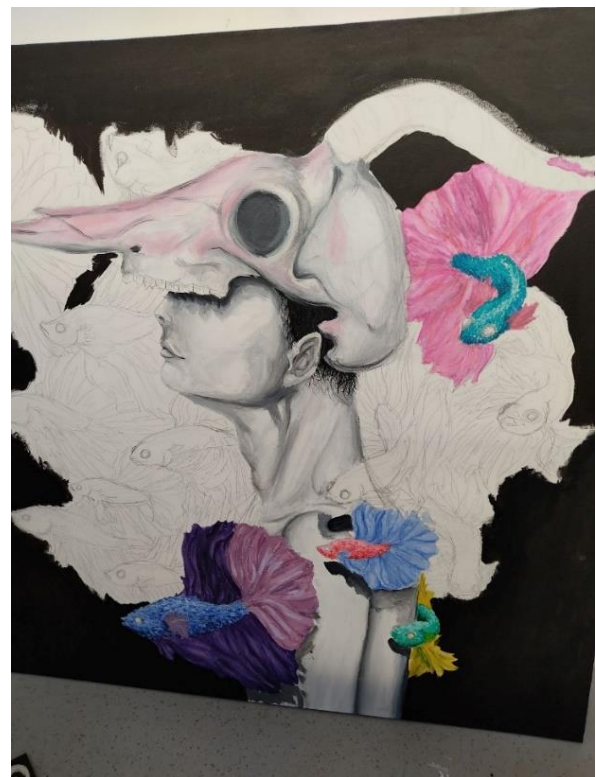


Nimrah is really enjoying GCSE art and has recently created some fantastic lino prints for her coursework.
Year 10 Nimrah Athar



In Year 9, we have been working on a sea life project. Ewan has really enjoyed the drawing aspect of the project and has made some great progress this year.
Year 9 Ewan Ryley

An exceptional painting from Kai, illustrating skills that have been developing throughout the GCSE course. This final assessment piece is already looking fantastic, I cannot wait to see it finished.
Year 11 Kai Fox



Business Studies

"Business Studies is a subject with huge access and appeal that it is certainly one of the most attractive subjects to both KS4 and KS5 students. Business Studies is available to students as both a GCSE and a BTEC; each qualification is as valuable as the other and both are as distinguished as each other. I was drawn to BTEC Business Studies when I was in Year 9 due to the fact I could find out more about the people behind my favourite brands. As children, it is easy to assume that these brands work like magic but through studying Business, I learnt about the characteristics of CEOs and how a business is able to survive in an increasingly competitive world. I finished my course with a L2D which I am particularly proud of.

Business Studies is a subject that requires dedication and hard work. However, the hard work that I speak of tends to be replaced with joy and excitement if an individual is willing to open up their mind to the business world."

Ewan Taylor (Head of School)

"As a student that isn't very good with exams, I believed that BTEC Business Studies at Level 2 was the best choice for me during KS4. At first, I didn't really know what to expect and noticed that there was a lot of content. However, after a few weeks I really started to enjoy my lessons. The course consisted of coursework and examination. Although, with course work being the main assessed element of the course I was able to work hard inside and outside of lessons to achieve a high level of coursework to present.

During COVID-19 it was hard to keep on top of all the coursework however it mainly relied on my sole research and hard work in order to complete it. Business studies was a really fun and interesting introduction to where business studies could take me in the future. When taking part in my mocks in year 11 we had to complete an exam that lasted over 2 hours. With a long time period to complete the exam I was able to take my time and complete every question to my fullest potential. The exam was very content based but the topics were easy to get my head around with plenty of revision and hard work.

By the end of Year 11 had produced a L2D exam and a high level of coursework. I was able to leave my BTEC with a grade of a L2D*. I am very happy that I was able to take this course at my school. It has opened my eyes to the world of business and changed my view on what career path to go down. I am now studying this subject at a higher level in the Buckingham School sixth form facilities. After enjoying KS4 business studies so much I decided to take the subject at a higher level. I am currently taking this course and really enjoying it.

At the beginning of our coursework in Year 12 we had to choose 2 businesses. These businesses are what we are going to base our coursework for Year 12 around. A couple of weeks ago we handed in our first section for unit 1 and I was very scared to see how I did as it was the first marked section and a large amount of content. Although, a few weeks later I managed to receive the highest available grade for that section which was a merit.

There are deadlines set from the teacher that help us to keep on top of the work and push us to complete the course. These deadlines can sometimes be tough to meet. Coming into year 12 I thought that the content expected wouldn't be too big of a jump from year 11 however it was big. In A-Levels there is a lot more expected however it is such an interesting subject that never seems to get boring. No matter what I research, I feel as though I learn something new each time, whether it is about the subject of business or the company in which I am studying.

Business studies at this level has been a nice eye opener to help with my future career. I originally wanted to study psychotherapy as being hugely interested in the sport and exercise science, however after my interest for business studies continues to grow I am extremely interested in going down the career path of fashion marketing. Business Studies has helped not only my knowledge in the subject but also helped me understand what I am good at and interested in continuing studying in the future."

Madison Glossy – Year 12

"When I initially started Business, I was unsure of what to expect. I enjoy Business Studies because I feel it brings great opportunities in the future. I have learnt how management, leadership and decision-making can improve a business's performance within marketing, financing and human resources. I chose business in the hope of having my own business in the future. Transitioning from Level 2 to Level 3 in business is a smooth transition but quite obviously requires a lot more work."




Charlotte Smith - Year 12

Careers/ work experience

The school has been recognised for the second consecutive year for achieving the Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers. There are 8 benchmarks schools have to meet, illustrated in the image (right).

We are immensely proud to have met the Benchmarks for the last 2 years, in spite of the pandemic.

The table below illustrates how the school performed in comparison to schools nationally and with other Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). We would like to take the opportunity to thank once again, the support we receive from Richard Harrington, our LEP advisor, Gaia Innovation, Bucks Hub, Youth4Action, Rotary Club, Buckingham University and all of the independent businesses and careers advisors who support our school and students each term.

Gatsby Benchmark	Your result 	% schools fully achieving this Benchmark nationally	% schools fully achieving this Benchmark in [HUBs]	% schools fully achieving this Benchmark in [LEPs]
			All Hubs 	All LEPs 
1 - A stable careers programme	✓	27%	41%	27%
2 - Learning from careers and labour information	✓	52%	68%	52%
3 - Addressing the needs of each pupil	✓	25%	31%	25%
4 - Linking curriculum learning to careers	✓	45%	57%	45%
5 - Encounters with employers and employees	✓	58%	72%	58%
6 - Experiences of workplaces	✓	52%	62%	52%
7 - Encounters with further and higher education	✓	30%	43%	30%
8 - Personal guidance	✓	61%	70%	61%

On Wednesday 8th December, Sixth Form students visited Silverstone Park to see the future of factories. The factory was automated and controlled largely by computers. 3D printing in many different materials has opened up a range of opportunities in technological advancements. Seeing how bespoke parts can be made for Formula One cars, artists' one off artefacts and even 3D printing joints for operations like hip replacements. Looking forward to more inspirational visits in the New Year!

Computing

September in Computing saw the launch of a new curriculum. Students have had the opportunity to learn about the insides and outsides of the computer! There has been a fantastic after school club, focusing on programming and robotics for KS3 students, whilst also having the opportunity during our lunchtime club to further develop these skills.

KS4 students have been visited by STEM ambassadors, the first being from engineering in what will make up a series of new talks designed to inspire and advise students of where their STEM subjects could lead them. KS4/5 selected students will be participating in a Taster Day at the University of Buckingham in January, whilst Year 10 students will be visiting Cineworld to gain an understanding of the computer programme they will be designing relating to an online ordering system for cinema tickets.

Lots of fun and excitement happening within the Computing department! If you have not had the chance yet please come and get involved.

GREAT GATSBY: THE BENCHMARKS

- 1 A STABLE CAREERS PROGRAMME**
Every school should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents, teachers and employers.
- 2 LEARNING FROM CAREER AND LABOUR-MARKET INFORMATION**
Every pupil and their parents, should have access to good-quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities.
- 3 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EACH PUPIL**
Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each pupil. A school's careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.
- 4 LINKING CURRICULUM LEARNING TO CAREERS**
All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.
- 5 ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES**
Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace.
- 6 EXPERIENCES OF WORKPLACES**
Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience.
- 7 ENCOUNTERS WITH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION**
All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.
- 8 PERSONAL GUIDANCE**
Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a careers adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level.

English

In English, we are currently teaching Darkside, The Diary of Anne Frank and Blood Brothers to Years 7, 8 & 9 respectively. Year 10 are finishing A Christmas Carol and are about to work through a Language exam paper before Christmas. Year 11 have just finished going through their November Mock Exams and will be revising Literature until the end of term. It is a very busy time, especially for Year 11, as although it isn't even Christmas yet, June exams loom large.

The Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is a learning journey like no other. Not only is it the most successful Sixth Form qualification in terms of students' results, it is also exceptional at preparing students for life after school. Here are some examples of what Year 12's have been enjoying so far:

Topic & Question evaluation

"We do topic and question evaluation in EPQ at the very beginning of our EPQ journey so we can give ourselves a range of different topics that we are interested in to research and write about in our essay. We choose three topics, writing why we wanna write each one and give advantages and disadvantages for each. Once we have chosen the topic we then write up 3 potential questions we are going to answer, saying why we would choose it and giving advantages and disadvantages as well. Doing this evaluation is the very first part of our EPQ planning and is where we first start expressing our interests on our topics and make it sound as interesting as we find it."

George Whincup

Critical thinking

"We also consider critical thinking so as to be able to take up the right information when researching for our EPQs. We came up with a number of questions that we are to ask ourselves when reading up on sources to determine whether or not they're the right ones. Some questions include who is the author, what is the site's purpose, is the site regularly updated and when was it last. In doing this, we now have an idea of what to look for when determining which facts are facts and which aren't entirely true so our EPQs will be as accurate as possible."

Mia Bace

Conspiracy theories

"In this EPQ lesson we were learning about false news and how it changed over time with new information and facts. The supervisor helped us pick a 'false news topic' or 'information topic'. We chose different conspiracy theories which we didn't agree with and we had to convince someone else this was true. Some examples are: the COVID-19 being related to 5G, the earth is flat and the Bermuda triangle. This lesson was all about learning how information can change over time and although our EPQ ideas are valid today they may change in the future with new ideas or knowledge."

Maria Bishop

Straw man debating

"During this EPQ lesson we used the 'Straw man' technique to debate whether we believed guns should be legal. This involved either disagreeing or agreeing on the statement before going to find information to support and argue the opposite, for example, those who believed they should remain illegal had to argue a convincing point as to why they should become legal. The point in doing this was to understand the importance of exploring both sides of our question regardless of whether we believe in it or not. Interestingly, by doing this it can make us consider arguments and points of view that have not been considered previously."

Mia Bace

The next stage of the qualification will involve research and writing the first draft of their projects. They will update you about this in the next exciting newsletter.

French and Spanish

Introducing MFL Language Leaders!

Congratulations to the following Year 9 students, who have been chosen after submitting outstanding letters of interest: Olivia Ovey, Isoble Rowles, Tira Young, Sienna Lynch, Georgie Hutt, Imogen Foster, Florence Harris, Chloe-Isabell Dsouza, Megan Bessell, Bella Healy, Emma Turnock, Isabelle Hunt.

As a Language Leader, these students will support the French and Spanish Departments in and out of lessons. They will help to run the extracurricular clubs and House Competitions, make displays, attend Open Evenings and support their language teachers and peers in class. This will enable them to develop communication and leading skills and will also learn how to teach French or Spanish to others and therefore improve their knowledge of the language. Their first contribution will be to develop a publicity campaign to raise the profile of learning languages at school.

Au revoir! ¡Hasta pronto!

PE

The PE department is at the heart of The Buckingham School, where almost everyone has shone their talents in the name of our school.

Whether it's equestrian and dance, or rugby and badminton, we are always reaching new heights. This term has seen sport persevere through the pandemic, seeing the return of extracurricular activities run by our very own Sports Leaders, including some of our Student Voice running them after school.

Ewan Taylor, Head of School, shares his experience...

"As a Sports Leader, I take great joy in running after school sessions for all the students. Over the past term I have had the pleasure in helping to run badminton and rugby sessions. It is great to see students developing their skills and I would encourage anyone thinking about coming to have a go, it is great fun for everyone."

Following the Christmas holidays, the Sports Leaders take their experience to primary schools, running sessions to the future of sports and to new hopeful students of the Buckingham School. Sports Leaders are taking on a lot of responsibility this term and throughout the year, including their involvement in our inter house competitions, ranging in a variety of sports, allowing everyone to have the opportunity to take part, and have the opportunity to represent their house.

The Buckingham School continues to see an unmatched level of success in our school teams. In recent sporting events, our school has witnessed:

- Year 8 County Cup Football semi final
- Year 7 County Cup Football semi final
- Year 8 Netball Team unbeaten
- Year 9 Netball Team unbeaten
- U15 girls County Cup Football unbeaten - 24 goals in 4 games
- Beaten RLS: Year 11 Rugby, Year 9 Rugby

As well as this, our students carry their skills beyond the school grounds and into the wider community, seeing nationwide success such as:

- Equestrian success - Charlotte Smith, Alice Hodges, Holly Smith, Izzy Ford
- Adam Davies U18 Welsh Dragons
- Buckingham Athletic - Ed Odley, George Pearson, Oliver Power, Kelvin Mupungu, Henry Pearson last qualifier for FA Youth Cup lost on pens
- Working on building community links - Northampton Saints/Bucks RFU/Buckingham Town Cricket/Buckingham Athletic football club/England Netball/England Basketball/Shenley Knights MK Basketball

This success, and any other sporting events related to The Buckingham School, can be followed on our twitter account - @TBS_PEDept.

After Christmas, the department plans to host a number of exciting PE trips, for those taking the subject and trips as part of our Enrichment Week. As previously held before, the Year 11s will get to enjoy and experience the trip to St Georges Park, visiting gyms and pitches used by our country's football teams. Again, members of our Student Voice have had the pleasure of taking this trip and sharing their experiences and Ewan Taylor is also included amongst these.

“When I was in Year 11, I had the opportunity to go to St George’s Park where we got to learn what it is like to be a professional athlete. Not only this, it was very helpful to see some of the concepts we learn about in theory, performed in a practical environment.

For anyone doing or thinking about taking GCSE PE, this trip is certainly a highlight of the course.”

Ewan Taylor (Head of School)

Our Enrichment Week hopes to see the return of our annual trips to Thorpe Park and Alton Towers, to those who constantly show hard work, progression and overall good behaviour. Our department is constantly achieving and has a lot more in store for the years to come, stay tuned.

PE Highlights Autumn Term

✓ Year 8 netball team unbeaten!	✓ Won Year 11 rugby, year 9 rugby against RLS	✓ Sports curriculum - Just dance KS4, Spikeball, fustal, swimming for KS4	✓ Will Glister playing for U18 England Rugby
✓ Year 9 netball team unbeaten!	✓ PE extracurricular offer is better than ever - run by sports leaders.	✓ Trips after Christmas - St Georges Park GCSE Year 11	✓ Josh Stigar plays for Buckingham County Cricket
✓ U15 girl’s county cup football unbeaten- 24 goals in 4 games!	✓ Year 8 county cup football semi final	✓ In House GCSE walk through exam with RLS	✓ George Pearson U16 Wasps Selection and county
✓ Sports Leaders getting ready for primary schools after Christmas	✓ Year 7 county cup football semi final	✓ Enrichment plans - PE trip to Thorpe Park & Alton Towers/ inter house competitions	✓ Adam Davies U18 Welsh Dragons
✓ Equestrian success for - Charlotte Smith, Alice Hodges, Holly Smith, Izzy Ford	✓ Y7 Netball success	✓ Inter house competitions - Dodgeball/ netball/ football/ basketball	✓ Buckingham Athletic - Ed Odley, George Pearson, Oliver Power, Kelvin Mupungu, Henry Pearson last qualifier for FA Youth Cup lost on pens

Star students

Year 7

Emily Cleaver
Matthew Cooper

Year 8

Percy Naughton
Lexi Woods

Year 9

Conni Medri
Kian Hiron

Year 10

Max Standley
Grace Newton

Year 11

Cameron Lissimore
Amelie King

Year 12

Charlotte Smith
Maddison Glossy

Year 13

Harrison Drakard
Ewan Taylor

Performing Arts

It has been great to see the return to live performances. Listening to the singing in rehearsals and watching the new friendships building across cast has been a real treat. Matilda Jnr, the end of term show, has been a sell out and huge success!

"I auditioned for the role of Miss Trunchball, thinking I would not get a main part. Ms Curness confirmed I had been successful in getting the part to play Miss Trunchball. After lots of rehearsing I got into the role and found my feet. Really pleased with how well I had developed my skills to play the role well."

Blossom Schneid – 'Miss Trunchball'

"I saw the Matilda Show on Tuesday; I went in only to see a few friends. I came out excited for everyone else to see it!! As I already said, I just went in to see a few friends performing in the chorus, but after watching the entire show, I couldn't stop humming along to the catchy songs on my way back home! It was so obviously well rehearsed and planned out and every moment was exciting! Everything was carried out wonderfully!"

Lisa Yarraton







Personal Development

Following Anti-Bullying week, Year 7 classes have been looking at the topic of 'bullying or banter'.

Year 8 classes have been looking at the media and the positive/negative impact it can have on different types of people. Recently, Year 9 classes had a visit from a Thames Valley Police officer to discuss the topic of drugs and the law.

Year 10 and 11 classes have been looking at topics such as personal safety and dangers of excessive drinking to ensure that students are aware of how to keep themselves as safe as they can outside of school.

In lessons, students have been asked to reflect on how they are displaying our School Virtues. Students have been completing School Virtue stickers at the end of Personal Development lessons to show which School Virtue they demonstrated in the lesson and how.

Additionally, prior to October half-term, ten of our students took part in the Local Democracy event. This is an annual event, which brings together students from The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School, and was chaired by Buckingham Town Council. This year, the theme of the event was "Protecting the environment: local communities take action". Students were able to ask local councillors questions on this incredibly important topic, while also discussing practical solutions for our community. Overall, this event was a great success and has prompted further discussions on how we can protect our environment. A follow up meeting has already taken place with regards to how to further develop this.

Science Christmas Special

We would like to share with you some 'Science behind Christmas'. We hope you enjoy!

The Christmas Pudding

The Christmas pudding goes back all the way to medieval England, when it was known as 'plum pudding', (wait... this reminds you of the history of the atom, right?). There are no plums in the pudding but the word 'plum' was used as a term for raisins in the pre-Victorian era. There was a custom that pudding should be "made with 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and His Disciples and that every member of the family should take turns to stir the pudding with a wooden spoon from East to West, in honour of the Wise Men". It is traditionally made with a mixture of dried mixed fruits, alcohol, suet (or more recently butter), eggs, flour and fragrant spices, and is steamed for a long time!

Butter or Suet?

Most recipes you will find deviate from the norm and use butter in the pudding instead of suet. However, suet was traditionally used because of its properties. Suet is a white, shredded, solid fat that is found around the kidneys and loins of cows and sheep. Suet has a higher boiling point than butter, which means it does not melt until the batter has cooked and has begun to set. After this, the suet begins to melt creating tiny holes, which make the pudding lighter in texture. Butter melts at a significantly lower boiling point, which causes the pudding to be heavier and greasier than when using suet.

What is in a flambé?

One of the most important Christmas traditions is the lighting of the Christmas pudding, also known as a flambé. When warm brandy is lit over the pudding, it burns and [evaporates the water](#) from the brandy (this also prevents it from overheating and being burnt). The blue flame is created by the reaction of ethanol (the alcohol in brandy) and oxygen from the air. The flame does not reach the pudding, as it is the ethanol vapour that is burning, not the pudding itself!

A nearly 50-year-old Christmas pudding?

In 2017, scientists claimed that it was safe to consume a 48-year-old Christmas pudding. Scientists at the University of Nottingham spoke to a popular food programme about this aged Christmas pudding. Dr Tania Perehinec tested the pudding rigorously to test whether any bacteria such as *E. coli* or *Salmonella* grew. The tests showed that yeasts and/or moulds were absent from the pudding, and the laboratory tests showed that no bacteria grew in the pudding, surprisingly. This is because bacteria cannot survive in a dry Christmas pudding.

In addition to this, the pudding was boiled vigorously for several hours before it was stored. The high heat from the boiling destroyed all the bacteria in the cooking process. The bacteria could not survive such high temperatures. The pudding was also sealed from air, in a cool place, which also helped protect it from the elements, and/or conditions that could help bacteria grow.

(Adapted from <https://www.ifst.org/news/food-science-christmas-pudding>)

The Festive Spirit and your Brain

The joy surrounding Christmas can increase the level of dopamine and serotonin in your brain, chemicals that affect your happiness. Dopamine drives us to seek pleasure and reward while serotonin is thought to increase our feelings of worth and belonging.

So when people talk about "Christmas cheer" they may be onto something, says Kira Shaw, a neuroscience postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sussex.

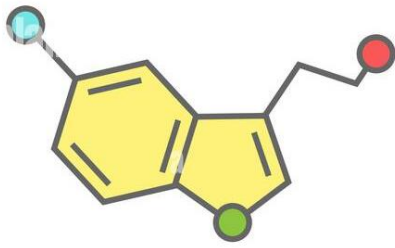
(in <https://inews.co.uk/news/science/explained-science-behind-christmas-112819>)

Science Holiday Fun!!!

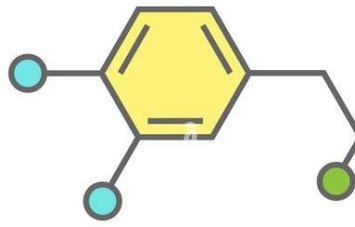
Visit this website for inspiration on your Christmas Holidays:

<https://elementalscience.com/blogs/science-activities/25-christmas-science-ideas>

Possible images to use and sources:



SEROTONIN



DOPAMINE

Image credits:

<https://www.alamy.com/dopamine-and-serotonin-molecular-structure-neurotransmitter-molecule-skeletal-chemical-formula-hormone-of-happiness-and-joy-vector-line-illustrati-image397579541.html>



Image credits:

<https://www.pennypress.co.uk/pudding-a-la-flambe/>

Design and Technology competition winners 2021



Winners of the Design and
Technology.
House Christmas card
Competition
2021.



Well done Year 9

A massive thank you to all who entered and
took part

1st Place: Victoria Jankovskaja-9 Whittle
bury.

2nd Place: Juliet Myers- 9 Stowe.

3rd Place: Lisa Yarranton- 9 Claydon 2.



IMPORTANT EMAIL ADDRESSES

The school's care for students who require our support with Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying and the Student First team are available via the following email addresses:

The email addresses are monitored by key staff, and students or adults will receive responses from an appropriate person.

SAFEGUARDING@BUCKINGHAMSSCHOOL.ORG

ANTIBULLYING@BUCKINGHAMSSCHOOL.ORG

STUDENTFIRST@BUCKINGHAMSSCHOOL.ORG

School calendar dates:

<https://www.buckinghamsschool.org/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=61>