

Buckswood School  
Hastings UK



# History

From its earliest days, Buckswood has inhabited large old country houses just far enough from the hubbub of modern life to benefit from the freedom of the countryside whilst at the same time remaining within striking distance of the Metropolis. The two genteel spinsters who founded the original school near Crawley in 1933 boasted that 'the school is run for children whose parents are abroad' and that 'languages are a special feature of the curriculum'. This is still the case. There were also 'organised games' and 'riding taught on own ponies kept for this purpose.'

During the War, the school moved to Uckfield before being reborn in the seventies as an international school gaining British Council status. Two rambling houses later, Buckswood's present custodians have of course moved on, but in a sense the school has come full circle. Buckswood's current home is Broomham Hall, an 18th century manor house, three miles east of Hastings. Like the original Buckswood, it also 'stands in forty-three acres of land in a very sunny position' but this time sixty miles (or an hour and half by train) from London.

There are riding stables and sport is still thriving. The flavour of the school is still at heart international. Over two hundred day-pupils socialise and learn with the same number of international boarders (receiving their education in English) allowing everybody to benefit from the constant cultural exchange that is everyday life at the school.



*The Percussion Band, Buckswood Grange, Crawley, Sussex*

*An afternoon in the hayfield, Buckswood Grange, Crawley, Sussex*





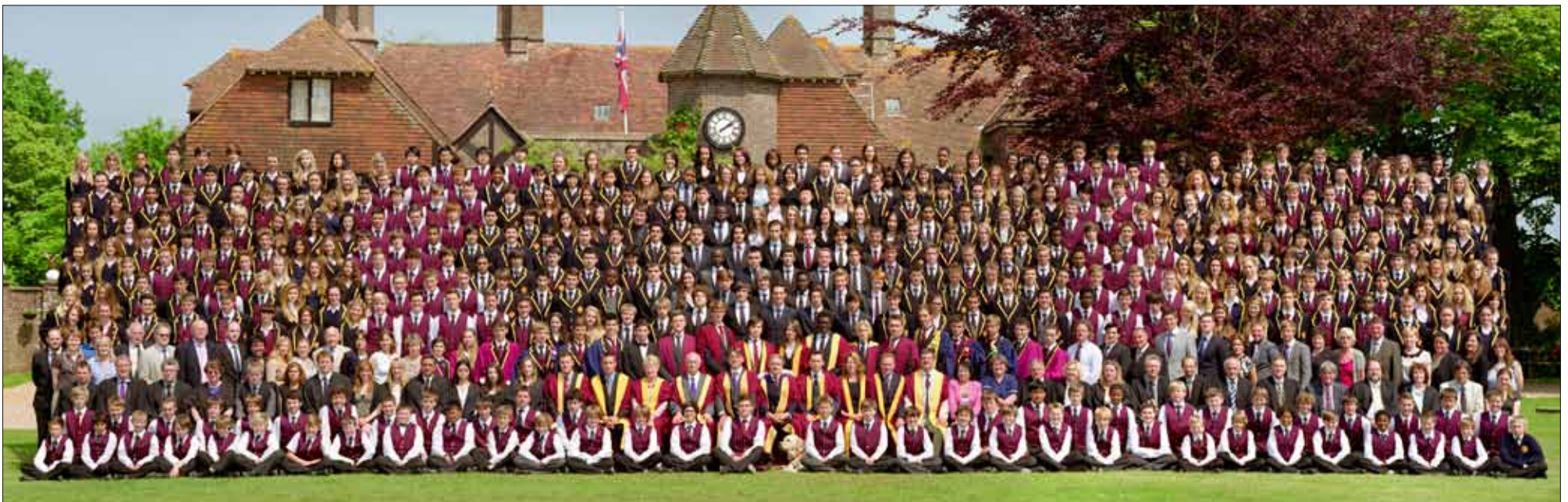
# The Buckswood Difference

Respect, Tradition, Integrity and Honour. The legend under the regal lions on Buckswood's coat of arms reads "Ad Vitam Paramus" or "We prepare for Life".

But what sort of life do we want for our children, and what skills will they need to be successful? At Buckswood we recognise that every scholar is an individual, born with an unique set of talents and abilities. The net of opportunity is cast so wide that as talent is discovered, it is nurtured and cultivated so that every scholar's potential is fully realised. We want each child to be able to stand up on their own two feet and be able to tackle any situation. They must learn that life is not like a Play Station with a short cut button when times get difficult, they must learn to find a way through any situation. This is achieved by dedicated staff. Teaching at Buckswood is a calling, a vocation, not a job.

Buckswood does not recognise the concept of the average pupil; there is no box-ticking template to be followed here because every scholar will be treated differently, with an education tailored to his or her own aptitudes. Buckswood's small class sizes, expert subject specialists and the uniquely inspiring environment come together to produce an educational experience unlike any other.

Buckswood instils a can-do spirit of adventure in its scholars who are willing to try something new, understanding that failure is not to be feared, knowing that new experiences make richer people. A wealth of stimulating and thought-provoking activities and opportunities are complemented by traditional classroom studies. The Buckswood approach opens the mind and produces well-rounded and interesting individuals – learners today, leaders tomorrow.



When your child becomes a Buckswoodian, they are joining a long heritage where 'old fashioned' values and manners are as important as academic rigour. A Scholar's first year at Buckswood is spent as a Buck, learning the Buckswood ways and traditions. From there they graduate to a Stag, passing down these customs and taking on roles of responsibility. Scholars address staff as Sir or Ma'am, rise from their chairs when an adult enters the room, say "good morning" and learn to look you in the eye and have a firm handshake. In a world where these standards are notable by their absence, at Buckswood they form part of the rhythm of everyday life. Deportment and decorum are essential life skills that the Buckswoodian learns at the school.

Every situation calls for and teaches scholars the behaviour that will serve them in the future. From impeccable manners in the dining hall, to speaking correctly and presenting yourself elegantly and with confidence, the Buckswoodian thrives and is comfortable in any social setting.

Following English public school tradition, prefects and staff wear gowns and every scholar wears their uniform with pride and a sense of honour. The scholars join together at the end of every week for the school assembly, which takes place nearby in Guestling church, a tiny architectural gem almost a thousand years old. The school bagpipe master and band lead the procession of prefects and staff for a service of music, thought-provoking speeches, sports results and commendations; the Buckswood family celebrates its successes together.

The school will have done its job if scholars leave being able to hold their own in a discussion at any level and appreciate the diversity of life within the global community.

A Buckswood education teaches scholars not only to be confident but also to be persuasive and impressive in a public forum, to be a leader rather than a mere follower. They strive to stand out in a crowd, being comfortable in their own skin without having to fit into any particular box. Success is the only outcome.





# Juniors



What is the longest river in the world? What is the capital of Kazakhstan? When and where and indeed why was the Magna Carta signed? What is the square root of 64? If  $x$  is 6-7, what is  $y$ ? When do you use the semi-colon? How do you spell 'incarcerate' and what does it mean? Which novel are you reading on your Kindle at the moment?

The Buckswood Junior is a young person of great potential. Of course the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic are taught – the academic programme in years 7, 8 and 9 is both broad and dynamic – but they also learn how to get on with each other, to live in a multicultural environment, to be polite, outward-going and, above all, enthusiastic. Their table manners are good, their communication skills with their elders admirable, their talents with conkers in the autumn unstoppable. At the same time, they get to grips with Mandarin, are obliged to learn Debating skills, grapple with the art of playing the bagpipes and perform musicals and plays in public. All this is designed to enhance knowledge and confidence, teaching students to think for themselves and use their imagination, a thorough preparation for transition to the senior school.

A range of subjects (including three languages) is studied by Juniors; Year 9 scholars are introduced to GCSE subjects and their teachers. Traditional features of a Buckswood education include an emphasis on immaculate presentation and weekly spelling and tables tests, all of course in fountain pen. Yet the Juniors have been issued with Kindles to encourage them to read as widely as possible.

Homework is completed daily between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m., under the supervision of a form tutor and Access Time is a tutorial system whereby individual subject support is given by teachers to pupils. The Junior School benefits from an extensive programme of clubs, squads and sports - in addition to regular overseas trips to Venice, Prague or Georgia – offering students exciting opportunities to enhance their educational experience.

Invariably polite and smiling, the Buckswood Juniors seem at ease with themselves, safe and respected within the Buckswood family, sensitive and respectful in their turn, always willing to stop for a chat, keen to make sure you are not lost or out of sorts. And above all, they laugh.





# GCSE

At Buckswood, we structure and fill scholars' lives, leaving little time for distractions. Our young people are enthused and inspired to delve deeper; stimulated to experiment both in and out of the classroom, being taught the study skills to transform their learning experience into exam results. Closely monitored and guided through these difficult years – with daily tutor-led prep, individual subject Access Time, the infamous Red File of topic notes, holiday revision camps and a personal inspection of their books every term by the Headmaster, scholars are pushed to achieve their academic potential.



A programme of visiting lectures and workshops, industry placements and numerous educational study trips (both in the UK and abroad) give a deeper understanding of the wide range of subjects offered. Studying in an international setting adds an extra dimension and cultural perspective to scholars' experiences. Historians go to the Battlefields in Flanders, Geographers visit Iceland's volcanoes, Business storms the trading floors in the City of London and Hong Kong, and the Art department makes any excuse to get out of the classroom and into a London gallery. There is no better way to learn than seeing it for yourself.

For international scholars there is a one-year GCSE course in English, Mathematics, Combined Science, Business Studies and First Language. Extra English support and the Information Technology qualification ECDL are the stepping stones to further education.

High levels of attendance and performance are expected, with parents having access to a wealth of information about their child's progress through our Eportal system.

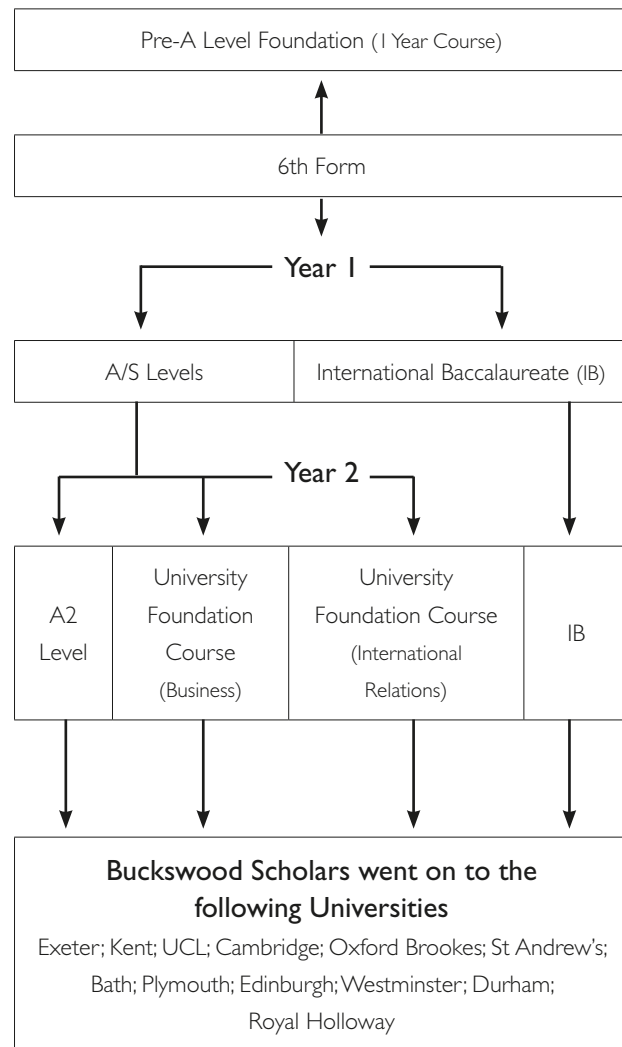






# Sixth Form and A Levels

## Sixth Form Courses



At Buckswood we specialise in finding and nurturing talent. When scholars reach the sixth form, that talent is focussed and channelled with a view to future career prospects. Armed with an individually tailored portfolio of wide-ranging experiences, skills and qualifications, a Buckswood graduate really does stand out from the crowd and has a CV that opens doors.

No future employer expects to spoon-feed an employee, and so our young adults are given the skills required for a successful life of increased self-discipline, independence and self-motivated study. Buckswood's 100% university entry rate demonstrates how this philosophy is working in practice, with strong A level and IB options reflecting the importance of university core subjects.

The size and structure of the Sixth Form allows for highly individualized support, both pastoral and academic. Our beautiful sixth form centre is dedicated to supervised study and personal guidance about Further Education, urging students to be as articulate, imaginative and impressive as possible in their personal statements and university applications (UCAS).

As is the Buckswood way, hands-on experience is an important feature of school life, and the Buckswood Sixth Former travels the world in order to evolve into

a truly global citizen. Regular destinations include China, New York and Swaziland.

The Buckswood sixth former wears a business suit yet still participates in regular sports, clubs and societies. Scholars need to learn to hold their own, attending ROSL lectures and representing the school at various functions such as debating competitions, industry conferences and undertaking community charity work.

The school mantra states that the concept of the average pupil must give way to the concept of an infinite variety of youngsters heading for an infinite variety of success. So whether your final destination is medicine or management, law or languages, science or sociology, Buckswood's sixth form will lay the foundations for your future.









# The IB Diploma Programme



The International Baccalaureate is a world-renowned qualification for the scholar who wishes to study a broader range of subjects than the traditional three or four A Level syllabus. IB is recognised internationally as a rigorous and challenging passport to higher education for the more gifted scholar.

The programme aims to develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalising world. Buckswood is the ideal venue for an international education with scholars from forty-seven nationalities living and learning on one campus – a very British school with a truly global outlook.



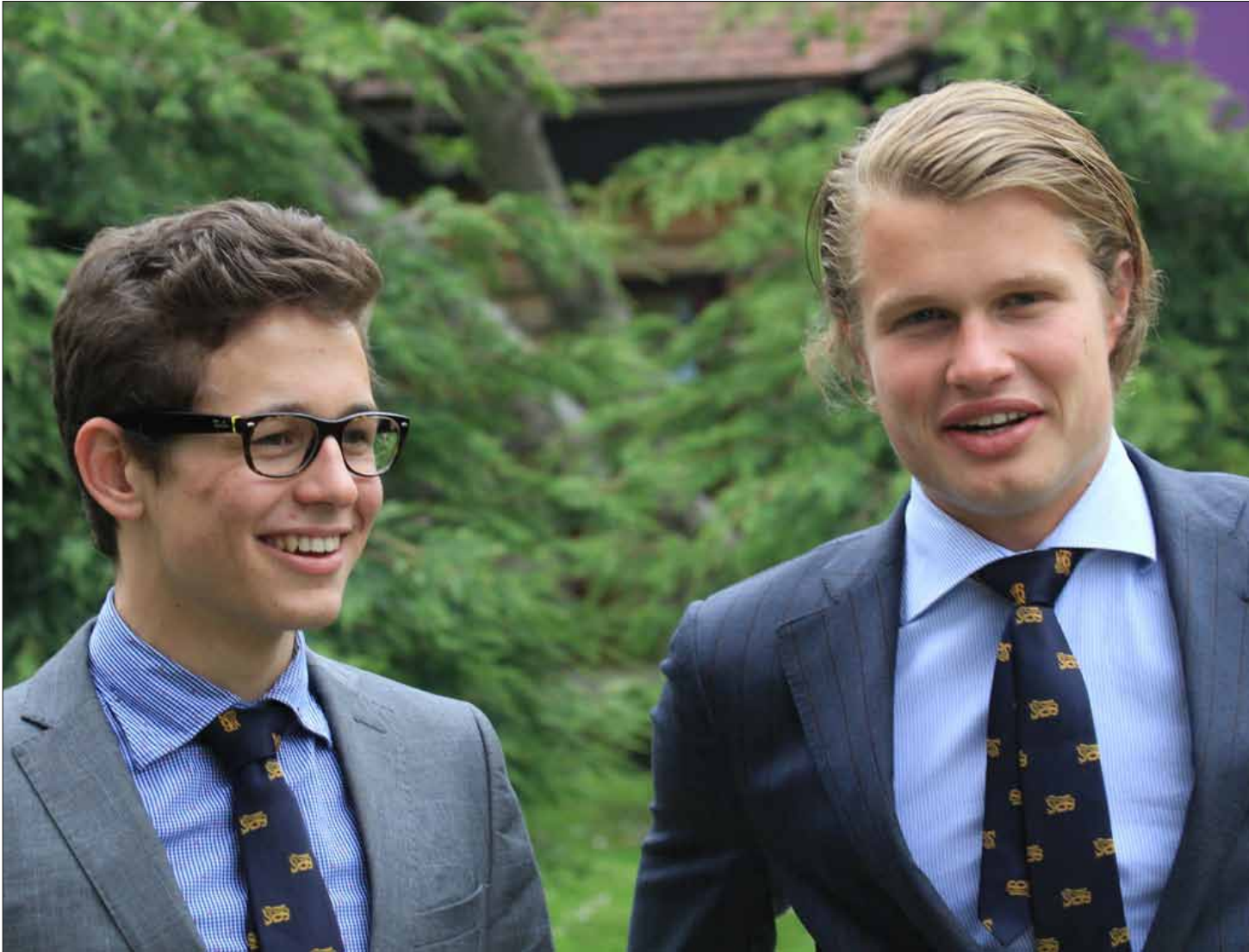
The Buckswood IB is studied on a more worldwide scale than elsewhere. There are opportunities to master at least two languages and increase awareness of cultures with an emphasis on international service in Africa. An important component of the course is ToK (Theory of Knowledge) which allows scholars to understand connections between traditional academic disciplines whilst exploring the nature of knowledge itself demonstrated through an extended essay.

For the gifted all-rounder, the Buckswood IB is the first step to a truly international career.





# *University Foundation Course Business Management*



The University Foundation Course (UFC) offered at Buckswood is a one year Business Foundation course consisting of five modules, a comprehensive business report based on a large company of the student's choice, and a final examination. Each module is made up of a series of assignments that require research in addition to good writing, analytical and evaluative skills.

Topics include Business Organisations, Marketing, Production, Finance, Human Resources, International Trade/Globalisation. Grades are awarded for each module in a range of assignments at Advanced Level standard. In keeping with the rest of the student body at Buckswood, UFC candidates also sit internal school examinations at regular intervals. In addition, students are expected to achieve a level of English Language acceptable to UK universities. This may be a minimum of Grade C in GCSE English Language or 6.5 in IELTS.

The course is designed to provide undergraduate preparatory work and is accredited and endorsed by the prestigious Royal Holloway University. It provides a good grounding for employment in many areas such as Marketing or Human Resource Management and the Public Sector, as well as preparing budding entrepreneurs for a life in business after university.



# Economics and Business

In the prevailing financial climate, Buckswood feels that every aspiring businessman or woman should be offered the opportunity to toughen up and learn what it is that Big Business requires from them. The Business Management Department is the largest faculty in the school turning out young entrepreneurs of all nationalities who gain places at the UK's most prestigious universities.

To reinforce and enliven the purely academic side of the courses, Buckswood is one of the first independent schools in the country to have established a practical work experience arrangement with financial services giant J.P. Morgan; a select group of sixth formers spends a week in the City of London seeing what the real world is like. The school's burgeoning relationship with the London Academy of Trading also allows scholars to experience first hand the world of trading and banking. There is an annual trip to Hong Kong where scholars can witness the Stock Exchange in action.

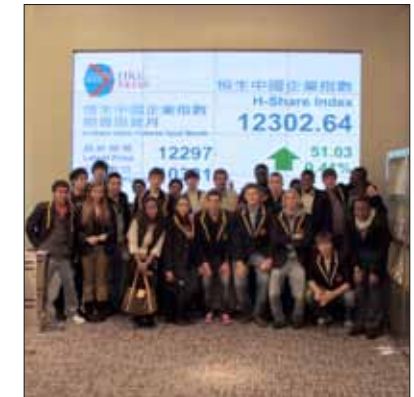
To increase business awareness on a more hands-on and practical level, the Department is closely involved with the progress of the new Buckswood vineyard. In association with Carr Taylor, a local wine producer, sixth formers oversee grape cultivation, bottling and marketing of the school's own wine, Château Buckswood – with the Art Department furnishing the label design.



*Sugar mill visit*



*Commonwealth Club, London*



*Hong Kong Stock Exchange*



Ofsted "Teachers enthuse about subjects."

# Languages

Barriers to international trade are relaxing; companies are ever more multi-national, and in order to succeed in an increasingly global job market, Buckswood graduates need be proficient in at least one other language, apart from their mother tongue. We have a large team of highly dedicated, professional MFL teachers, most of whom are native speakers.

Juniors learn French, Spanish and Mandarin with the emphasis on speaking and listening, basic vocabulary and grammar. There is a study trip to France each year, and both juniors and seniors learning Mandarin are offered the chance to visit Hong Kong and mainland China. In Form 3 talented linguists are offered a fast track programme, enabling them to take one or more MFL GCSEs a year early.

Seniors take at least one of these languages for GCSE, or IGCSE, though they may take all three. We offer a wide range of languages for A level and IB. Week long study trips are offered to French and Spanish language schools where scholars stay in host families to develop skills and improve their confidence for public exams.

Sixth formers can take any of the core three languages for A level within our option blocks. We also deliver Arabic, Cantonese, Dutch, Farsi, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Czech, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Polish and Turkish, from beginner to advanced levels, for both native and non-native speakers.

Apart from European or Far Eastern trips, sixth formers are given the opportunity to go on work placements in the target language country during school holidays.

International students study their mother tongue and take GCSE in Forms 3 or 4 and IGCSE (first language) exams in Form 5. International sixth form scholars are strongly advised to take A levels in their mother tongue; this adds valuable UCAS points to university applications.





# EFL and Lamda

*English – the global language*

Given the choice between two possible ways of speaking (either with or without a teenage grunt), Buckswood students are reminded that a good clear English accent is worth a fortune on the global stage. They are offered intensive courses in both English as a Second Language and in Public Speaking.

The English Language is at the core of academic study at Buckswood and it is the role of the EFL Department to support our international students by providing courses from beginner to advanced levels. New students are tested initially on application in order to advise on appropriate courses, and then again on arrival to facilitate placement within classes.

We offer Intensive English courses at the pre-GCSE and pre-A Level ages, which give students a full academic year to build their language skills before progressing to our international 'One-Year GCSE' or A Level courses.

EFL teachers at Buckswood are chosen not only for their qualifications, but also for the experience and interests that they bring to the classroom, be they academic, cultural or sporting, in order to enrich the students' learning environment. We incorporate global issues into our lessons, and lead trips to a variety of stimulating destinations. Learners sit examinations such as Cambridge ESOL, IGCSE and, for university entrance, IELTS - a test for which we boast excellent results.

If a young adult wishes to impress, he or she must be able to speak clearly and confidently in public. A professional actor teaches the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts 'Using Spoken English' courses, coaching scholars in the time-honoured skills of voice production, eye contact, breath control and body language. Well-structured speeches are prepared and delivered on topics ranging from tyrants to tree-houses, all good practice for the demands of university or job interviews. As a bonus, LAMDA candidates are awarded UCAS points worth another A level.



# Performing Arts

All children destined to become impressive adults must be willing and able to stand up and perform in public.

Both Drama and Music are enthusiastically taught throughout the curriculum from Form 1 to GCSE and A level. The departments are constantly busy with instrumental lessons, school plays, musicals and trips to London's West End theatres to fire the enthusiasm and imaginations of young performers. There is a drama club, a school choir and a bagpipe band and students rise to the challenge of local festivals and contests, regularly walking away with prizes for solo or group performances. There are regular visits from professional acting troupes and musicians offering workshops to inspire and enthuse.

Buckswood is an Arts Award Centre offering both Trinity Guildhall Arts Qualifications, Associated Board of Music Examinations and LAMDA Acting and Devising courses, all of which produce excellent results and a constant queue of stage-struck young people.



*Drama and Fashion*



*Royal Academy of Music scholar performing during assembly*



*The Art Studio*



*Buckswood Bagpipers*





# Global Citizenship

"Civilisation is the celebration of our difference" Gandhi. Gandhi's words are the cornerstone of Buckswood's concept of International Relations and Global Citizenship.

The school is a microcosm of the outside world, a multicultural society in its own right, but one in which, as Ofsted noticed, the population do in fact accept and tolerate each other's differences, benefitting from co-existence rather than the opposite. This is due in part to the belief that every child should be able to develop his or her own point of view on any topic. To this end, Debating is part of the timetable; upon the specially designed Debating Chamber at the heart of the school is inscribed another quotation, this time from the King of Swaziland: "I have no enemies: I deal in dialogue."

At Buckswood we believe that Global Citizenship goes beyond simply knowing that we exist as citizens on the planet; it means that we acknowledge our responsibilities both to each other and to the Earth itself. Global Citizenship is not only about understanding the need to tackle injustice and inequality, but also about having the desire and ability to work actively towards this goal. We must value the Earth as precious and unique, safeguarding our home for future generations. Global Citizenship is an outlook on life, a way of thinking and behaving, a belief that we can make a difference.

These principles apply throughout school life, across all subjects and within all age groups. We see them as the foundation on which education should be built: as a basic entitlement for all pupils.

# Knowledge is Power (KiP)

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" Nelson Mandella. As part of our approach to creating well rounded individuals with a good knowledge of the world about them, we have developed the 'Knowledge is Power' programme (KiP).

KiP brings in experts from a variety of fields to engage our pupils and to encourage them to think more about the world in which we live. Activities to date have included lectures about international banking, Amnesty International, different aspects of philosophy and the Red Cross. There have been talks from explorers and authors, an annual visit from a survivor of the Holocaust and presentations about art. Hands-on workshops about English garden design and conservation have fascinated pupils whilst there has been basic First Aid training for all Lower 6th form students. We also work with students to improve their confidence in interview by bringing in experts from 'Standing Tall'.

KiP is mainly directed at 6th form students, but certain activities are also available to other year groups. We recognise that this is an increasingly competitive world and that it is important for our students to be aware of global issues – both in the present and the past. By exposing our students to real people, experts in their field who have experienced the world beyond the school gates, our goal is to inspire as well as to educate. At Buckswood, we believe that the more you know, the more you will succeed – that Knowledge truly is Power!



# Leadership



Leadership is encouraged at all levels at Buckswood, whether as a school prefect, a dormitory captain, a sports captain, or just the child who decides to set an example by picking up a dropped crisp packet or organising the rescue of the school dog from a hail storm.

Leadership has been defined as organising a group of people to achieve a common goal. Leaders may or may not have any formal authority, but what they do possess is a natural instinct, a charisma which sets them above their fellows – especially in a crisis. They earn respect for their vision, their determination – in short, for how they behave in any given situation.

Buckswood has identified five key leadership attributes that students must develop, or be taught to develop:

- A positive contribution to the community
- Application of knowledge with compassion
- Solving problems collaboratively and creatively
- Making fair and just choices
- Facing challenges with determination

Given that each child has the potential to become a leader, if a young adult leaves Buckswood with these attributes, the school will have done its job.



*Leadership through sport*

*Leadership through adventure*



*Leadership through academic study*

# Sport

*Competitive like the world*



The Buckswood Sports Department is focused on nurturing talent and providing opportunities for all. The sporting set-up promotes core seasonal sports whilst providing optional extras. An extensive fixture list with as many local schools and clubs as possible keeps students busy in competitive environments on a weekly basis, including evenings and weekends. At Buckswood each pupil is affiliated to at least one sports team per term, training in many sports across the curriculum during both lessons and squad training sessions. Sports change each term to allow pupils the widest experience possible, giving them the opportunity to represent the school in regular inter-school fixtures and County tournaments. The sporting programme encourages team spirit, a determination to win, an enhanced social life and good health – perfect preparation for life after school.

Overseas links allow us to take our talented local and international athletes abroad to compete whilst experiencing a different culture; recent visits include Georgia, Holland, Italy, Swaziland and Spain.

**Christmas Term: Boys:** Football, Rugby, Cross Country. **Girls:** Hockey, Netball, Cross Country.

**Easter Term: Boys:** Football, Rugby 7s, Hockey. **Girls:** Netball, Junior Hockey, Football.

**Summer Term: Boys:** Cricket, SAQ, Athletics. **Girls:** Rounders, SAQ, Athletics.

**Facilities:** To maximise development and fulfil sporting potential, Buckswood has considerably increased its sports facilities, both indoor and outdoor. Pupils can now continue to achieve even during the long months of typically unreliable British weather. In recent years Buckswood has modernised its facilities to cater for as many sports as possible: three all-weather AstroTurf areas, including an indoor Astro; rugby and football pitches; cricket pitch including all-weather strip; indoor and outdoor cricket nets, tennis courts, netball courts and basketball courts; riding stables, sand school and jumps; cross-country course; golfing area; indoor swimming pool; gym and fitness suite; grass volleyball court.







# Sports Academies

“Sports do not build character. They reveal it.” Heywood Broun



Buckswood specialist Sports Academies reflect the school's emphasis on structure, respect, discipline and honesty. In the words of one of its students, it is 'challenging, fun and professional'. The Academies foster the talent of committed young sports people from fifty nations and all walks of life. From would-be professionals to keen amateurs, the Academies ensure that students achieve their full potential both on the sports field and in their academic life. The two goals are not mutually exclusive.

Academy players have the opportunity to increase both in confidence and knowledge of the chosen sport, earning qualifications, coaching certificates and competitive experience during their time at school. The disciplines and leadership skills required for the Academy programmes translate into a focussed, self-motivated and proactive approach to classroom learning.



**BFA**

- Six training sessions per week
- Performance profile analysis
- Premier/Football League scout assessment
- Training session at a Premier League club
- SAFA Skills Challenge Certificate
- Train for your FA Coaching Badge
- Referees qualification
- One European football tour per season
- Guided tour of Wembley stadium and numerous Premier League matches
- Full BFA training kit and travel suits



**BTA**

- British Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)
- 3 Floodlit all-weather courts
- 2 Floodlit hard courts
- 1 indoor court
- Unlimited use of Buckswood tennis facilities
- Tournaments
- Sussex Schools competitions
- Student Outreach Programmes
- LTA Level 1 Coaching Assistant qualification
- Full BTA Kit
- Easter and Summer HalfTerm tennis camps



**BGA**

- 2 hour lesson with PGA coach per week
- 2 practice net sessions at Buckswood
- Unlimited use of Beauport Park Golf Course
- Unlimited use of floodlit driving range
- Sports physiotherapy
- External trips out and formal meals
- Regional tournaments
- Club tournaments
- Representing the county opportunities
- Full BGA kit



**BRA**

- On-site Equestrian facility
- BHS qualified staff and instructors
- Member of the National Schools Equestrian Association
- Trips to Olympia, Ascot, Badminton, Burghley, Hickstead and Point-to-Point
- Show Jumping, Cross Country, Eventing, Dressage, Tetrathlon, Modern Pentathlon
- Floodlit Sand School
- Holiday programmes
- Full and working livery available



# Team Photos



1st XI Football



1st XI Hockey



... and whoops ... the Junior Rugby Squad covered in mud



Junior Cricket



Girls Netball



# Campus

## The Global Village

Buckwood scholars enjoy the beautiful setting of our 40 acre (16.2 Hectares) campus, overlooking the English Channel on the south coast of England.

The campus is located just 10 minutes outside the busy seaside resort of Hastings, famous as 'the birthplace of England' and the point at which the Norman Conquerors landed in the 11th century. Despite its idyllic rural setting, central London is just 90 minutes away by direct train, and the major entry points of Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Ashford are all within easy reach.

The school has the feel of an English village about it and includes a working, old English telephone box and a study centre for our A Level scholars which dates from the 13th century. But it's not all ye olde England; there's no pub, but we have WiFi in all dormitories and throughout the campus, plus an extensive computer technology suite.

Classrooms are dotted around the campus and so Buckwood scholars get plenty of exercise and seaside air between lessons. To keep things fresh for scholars and staff alike, Mr Sutton is constantly devising new ways to update and improve the school, so nothing stays the same for long!

The campus provides the perfect framework in which scholars can study hard during the working week but also allows them the freedom to let off steam on the playing fields, in the swimming pool or on horseback, when their work is done.

Other facilities on the campus include: riding stables; covered, heated swimming pool and sauna; indoor sports hall; performing arts centre; tennis courts; golf course and cinema.

However, our attractive campus is not simply window dressing. Of course we want clean, comfortable and efficient buildings in which the scholars can learn and study but we must never forget that it's the quality of the teaching that truly defines the school.







*Performing Arts Block*



*Courtyard*



*Sports Hall*



*Rowing Boarding House*



*Floodlit Astroturf Pitch*



*School House*



*Buckswood Transport*



*Clock Tower*



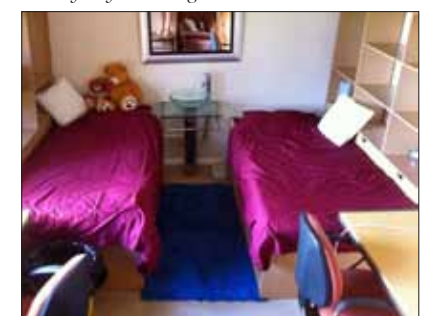
*Family Style Dining Hall*



*Swimming Pool*



*Reception*



*A Boarding Bedroom*



# Horse Riding

Domino, Connie, Poppy, Duke, Bertie and Baylord are some of Buckswood's most popular members of staff. These six horses patiently put up with the varied riding skills of both absolute beginners and advanced equestrians in a department proud of its friendly atmosphere and sense of dedication and purpose. The horses are loved and cared for by scholars both junior and senior who feed and water them, muck out their stables and tend and prepare them for regular inter-school competitions.

Buckswood boasts excellent riding facilities and a dedicated team of teachers. In constant use is an all-weather surface sand school, a show-jumping field and a course for cross

country schooling. For young riders who wish to bring their own horse to school, there is always plenty of room in the stables.

As a Pony Club Centre, Buckswood offers Achievement Badges and Tests; as a member of the National Schools Equestrian Association, Buckswood is frequently placed in schools excursions. Hardly a week goes by without a mass of rosettes being awarded in Assembly because, with a fully working stables, riding is absolutely central to the school. Taster lessons too are available at any time; the six horses are always ready to rise to the challenge of the inexperienced!







BUCKSWOOD  
SCHOOL





# Boarding and House System

Sending your child away to a boarding school is a difficult decision for any parent, but boarding schools nowadays, especially Buckswood, are a home away from home where children are nurtured within a structured and busy environment. Thriving on the daily challenges, the boarding experience ensures your child develops the skills for independent living; giving them a sense of belonging, self-discipline, structure, and having a sense of worth and responsibility.

The boarding facilities at Buckswood provide a happy, nurturing, structured environment where the routine of daily life translates into a focussed, self-motivated and disciplined approach in the classroom.

The boarding accommodation is spread over the campus and each House is proud of its individual character; from the 15th Century School House complete with oak beams and fire places, the girls' Victorian manor Guestling Hall, the country cottages of Oaks House, or the modern lodges of Rowling and Kipling; each with a House Tutor and dedicated staff who are personally responsible for each and every boarder in their care. The house system is unique to British education and at Buckswood there are six houses, each giving its members – especially new arrivals – an extra sense of belonging within the larger Buckswood family.

The accommodation ranges from single rooms to bedrooms catering for four, mostly with en-suite facilities and views over the English countryside. Scholars room with others of the same age and for the international boarder, the arrangements promote faster progress in English language skills and cultural awareness, mixing young people from over forty nationalities, with support, advice and medical care available on site whenever needed.

A full programme of evening and weekend activities ensures that these times are structured; study, relaxation and housekeeping skills are developed to allow each boarder to grow into a confident, independent and organised individual.

The Buckswood chef and his staff prepare and cook a wide variety of healthy balanced meals. Bread is cooked daily and fruit and water are always available. All meals are served in our wood-panelled Dining Hall with the Headmaster sharing every meal time, ensuring that the highest standards of cuisine and table manners are maintained, preparing scholars with the social etiquette required for their futures.

Living and learning in an international setting fully integrated with the native English-speaking day pupils offers the Buckswood boarder the unique opportunity to blend their heritage with the traditions and customs of others – making them truly global citizens.





**Ofsted, the Schools Inspectorate, have made some comments about the boarding experience at Buckswood:**

- Boarders develop understanding and genuine respect for different cultures and religions and they say they do not experience or witness any form of racism. One said, 'The governments of different countries may not get on, but here we do.'
- Boarders are extremely proud of their school. They attribute the positive outcomes they achieve to the extensive opportunities available to them and the support they receive from staff and each other.
- The health and well-being of boarders is promoted effectively through robust procedures instigated by professional nursing staff who are supported by motivated boarding staff.
- Boarders consistently state that they feel safe in a setting where neither racism nor bullying is experienced.
- Boarders benefit from extensive opportunities to take part in a wide range of stimulating activities in and around the school and in the wider community.
- Recreational facilities on site are of a high standard. These are utilised throughout the school day and are accessible to boarders through evening and weekend activities.
- Boarders live in accommodation that is of a good standard and well maintained.
- Catering arrangements are of a high standard.
- Outcomes for boarders at the school are outstanding. Boarders are overwhelmingly enthusiastic about their boarding experience and make the most of the opportunities available to them.





### *Ladettes to Ladies!*

Throughout the year the Guestling Hall girls follow an etiquette programme which we call 'Ladettes to Ladies!'

This programme culminates in being treated to afternoon tea at the George Hotel in Rye:

"What a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. All the girls dressed up and what a transformation, from girls to young ladies. Manuel dropped us all off in the town and we walked up to the Hotel. Everyone stopped to look as we walked through the town. It was such a good feeling as the shop-keepers asked who we were, what we were doing and how lovely we looked.

The Hotel Ball Room had been prepared for us and upon arrival we were greeted with a glass of Bucks Fizz. Mr Sutton gave us a few hints on how to drink afternoon tea (remember the little finger!) and how to eat a scone (is it jam or cream first?) and other useful hints and tips about the ancient tradition of the 'Great British Afternoon Tea Ceremony!' Mrs Carter also gave us a few hints on deportment. We learnt to walk with a book on our heads (not sure what this was about) but it was good fun. We were also given a little hint on how to get in and out of a sports car with elegance. After tea we walked up to the church, looked around and slowly strolled back to the bus."

**Marcia, 17yrs**







  
**GUESTLING HALL**  
A Buckwood School Halls of Residence  
Phone 01424 813 813  
(10-18yrs)

# The Weekend

**Structured freedom:** Weekends at Buckswood are by no means just an excuse for endless shopping trips, letting your hair down or lazing around on a sofa completing the next level on a computer game. A successful weekend is one where, through careful advanced planning, the pupils achieve more than they thought possible, and recharge their batteries at the same time. We ensure that there is some sort of structure but at the same time allowing the young scholars enough freedom for them to make the odd mistake. More importantly, they learn how to fill their time wisely and constructively.

We have therefore set up a system that consists of the following: Saturdays are divided up into **S**chool **C**oursework, **O**utings, **R**ecuperation, **E**ntertainment, which we call **S.C.O.R.E.**



Sundays consist of **R**eading, **E**nrichment, **S**ports, **T**ime-out, known of as **R.E.S.T.**

Every Thursday, House Tutors meet their scholars to decide in advance how to fill the above tasks. The scholar chooses various activities to complete, and then, on Sunday evening, writes comments about whether they achieved what they wanted to. Parents are sent a copy of this report at the end of each term.



## Saturday – S.C.O.R.E (School, Coursework, Outings, Recuperation, Entertainment)

### AM

**School and Coursework:** 9am – 12.30pm

**Saturday School:** Language options, World Development, Global Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Self Study, Photography, Sports, Extra classes by subject teacher

Buckswood offers more to their students to aid in expanding the minds of the future. Every Child Matters and Saturday mornings are set aside to nurture the individual. Students have the opportunity to sign up for extra classes and tuition, alongside group lessons/creative courses and group discussions. The A Level students have the opportunity to self-study and take responsibility for their chosen subjects in the school library.

### PM

**Outings and Recuperation:** 1.15pm – 6.30pm

Town Leave with the Buckswood Coach Service every 30 minutes into Hastings to socialise and have coffee with friends, do essential shopping for school supplies and personal items and generally have a needed break from campus.

Buckswood also hosts and visits surrounding schools to give the sporting students a chance to represent the school in Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball fixtures.

### Evening

**Entertainment:** 7pm – 8.30pm

English Country Fair, Casino Night, Karaoke, Date Night, Ultimate Quiz Nights, Game Shows, X-Factor Talent Show, Culture Evening, Pizza Making, Body Shop Pamper Night.

Each week the duty house on campus gets together and organises an entertaining evening for the rest of the boarding community to attend for a fun and relaxing evening to round up a hard working week. This is a special night as can only be experienced in a boarding school environment and there is a great atmosphere around the campus. It's good to let your hair down.

## Sunday – R.E.S.T (Rest, Enrichment, Sports, Time-out)

### Read:

1:1 tuition, Quiet Room, Computer, Library, 6th year Self-Study

Use the quiet time on a Sunday afternoon to reflect on your weeks work, the effort you have put in and tie up any loose ends in your work load or prepare for the coming week's classes to give yourself a head start.

### Enrichment: 2 – 6pm

London, Brighton, Eastbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Battle, Rye, Paintballing, Rock Climbing, Watersports, Skiing, Local Castles, Art Gallery Shows, Afternoon Tea, Theatre Shows

Get off campus and try something new! Take that much needed break from your studies if you have been working hard during the week and come back refreshed and enlightened from a cultural trip to the theatre/art gallery; push your limits with the Outdoor Challenge Program or take in a different cities atmosphere and have coffee with your friends. Take a look at your timetable and ensure you have a good work: play balance, which is essential to being most productive.

### Sports: 2 – 6pm

Fishing Academy, Golf Academy, Horse Riding, Football, Badminton, Tennis, Volleyball, Cricket, Rounders, Kickboxing, Swimming

Burn off some of that extra energy to aid your concentration levels. Be pro-active and join in around campus, even if for a well-deserved one hour break in the afternoon – You can fit it in!

### Time-out:

Letter Writing, Meditation/Self Reflection, Read a Book, A Long Walk, Watch a Film, Polish Shoes, Organise Personal Space

Being in a boarding environment means that you are constantly on the go and surrounded by people. It's great to join in with all the activities and ensure you get that piece of work finished that your teachers demand from you, but you have to make time for yourself as well. Sunday afternoon is a great time for this as it is quiet and everyone is getting on with their own interests. It's good to have some 'you' time.







# Half Term and Holiday School



Royal Yacht Britannia



Venice

School holidays provide an excellent opportunity to venture beyond the school campus and local area and explore the UK, Europe and further afield with other scholars, friends and House Tutors. Open to all, but catering specially for those who are unable to travel home, it is a time to recharge batteries and try something new by visiting a selection of interesting destinations and enjoying a variety of activities including sports such as skiing and surfing. These well planned and structured activities include cultural trips to destinations such as Cornwall, Scotland and Barcelona. Any visa requirements are sorted out by the school. This is a perfect time to learn about different cultures. Trips are fully staffed by our team of House Tutors.

## Holiday Schools

Children need a certain amount of down time during their school holidays and they learn best in a happy, pleasant environment such as Buckswood during our Easter and Summer Courses. Buckswood Overseas Summer School (BOSS) is here to do just that with two courses per year for students from both the UK and across the globe. Buckswood St George's is another option, whereby scholars can join either an intensive study course or a programme of supervised study with the odd trip out to London or Brighton.

There are also two GCSE and A Level study camps held on campus during Easter and Summer half terms.

Our Summer School consists of three main elements – English Language studies, a wide range of afternoon and evening activities as well as fantastic cultural excursions and trips.



Rome

Manchester United









# Charity – The Churchill Award

*“We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”* Churchill

In order to open students' eyes to those less fortunate than themselves, to help them to appreciate what they have and don't have, Buckswood supports three charities: one local, St Michael's Hospice, one national – Macmillan Cancer Support – and one international in the form of the Royal Children's Projects in Swaziland.

Fund-raising events take place regularly for St Michael's and Macmillan whilst every summer holiday, 30 Buckswood pupils are taken to Swaziland to see for themselves what work is being done and what still needs to be completed. Immediately upon arrival they are given horticultural tools and paintbrushes before being set to work getting their hands dirty – making a real difference to orphans in Africa and also earning themselves UCAS points in the process.

No pupil returns from Swaziland without being profoundly affected by what they have seen and experienced, and none ever again complain of being hungry or thirsty.









# Duke of Edinburgh Award and 101 Things



*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* Mahatma Gandhi

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Buckswood offers Duke of Edinburgh because young people need to be steered away from a sedentary life devoted either wholly to academic work or to computer games and virtual reality. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, recognised by both universities and employers, allow participants to make a real contribution, to foster life-long friendships whilst at the same time learning leadership skills, independent thinking and physical endurance. The programme is designed to stretch scholars in a wide range of challenges, culminating in a prestigious award ceremony at St James Palace, London.



## 101 Things To Do at Buckswood

Try something new and discover a talent. How do you know you are not the next world croquet champion if you have never been given the opportunity to play the game?

At the beginning of every year, Buckswood scholars receive a slim booklet containing a list of 101 personal life-skill challenges designed by the Headmaster to combat the twin sins of laziness and cynicism. Closely monitored through the form tutor system, everyone must at least attempt to complete the tasks. Boil an egg for one point at Bronze level, work a washing machine for three points at Silver, or learn a second language for five points at Gold. Ride a bike, memorise a poem, have a water fight, make jam, build a snowman, play a musical instrument, ride on a rodeo bull, arrange some flowers, run the London Marathon or go on a charity trip to Swaziland – there is something for everyone, from the mundane and practical to life-changing experiences that really make a difference.









# *Sports and Speech Day*

*"Coming together to celebrate success"*

Buckswood is many things to many people but, in order to function and succeed as it does, it has to be a dynamic community. It is a community that, by its very nature, is spread all over the world and so when it is time to bring that community together in one place, we have to make it a very special event indeed.

Buckswood School's Sports & Speech Day is a glorious celebration of the academic year that has just passed, where parents from across the globe come to meet and mingle with students, teachers, pastoral staff and other parents. It's a chance to compare experiences, enjoy champagne and strawberries and, most importantly, to applaud the achievements of the young people who are the lifeblood of the school.

Together we celebrate the 'graduation' of Form V and Sixth-Form students in style. A formal black tie cocktail party is held on the Friday night and on the Saturday we drive our departing Sixth Formers to a dinner and dance in chauffeured stretch limousines.

All are welcome to attend, whether you are the parents of a former student, an educational consultant, or are considering Buckswood as the next step in your child's education. Make a note in your diary and make sure you don't miss out on our hospitality.

Buckswood students are united not only by their successes and their sense of community, but also by their differences. Sports & Speech Day is a great opportunity to see the Buckswood world coming together.



Ofsted *"Baorders are extremely proud of their school."*







# Old Buckswoodians



It's not what you know, it's who you know. Given its eighty year history, the Buckswood family tree is an indispensable resource for younger members needing a leg up in a chosen career.

There are OBs all over the world who are more than willing to help and advise; and with the advent of Facebook, Linked-In and other social media, what could be easier than taking advantage of this valuable mine of information, influence and expertise?

The impressive network of international alumni is an enviable resource, able to offer support and advice to the next generation of scholars along their Buckswood journey – from Juniors, GCSEs, A Levels and beyond.

## The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL)

At the end of their time at Buckswood, each sixth former is given the opportunity to meet like-minded Old Buckswoodians – and their friends – in historic clubhouses in St James's, London and Princes Street, Edinburgh. ROSL is a not-for-profit membership organisation designed not necessarily to encourage stiff collars, cigar-smoking and sherry consumption but to foster international understanding through social, music, arts and humanitarian programmes.

Members enjoy a vibrant events calendar brimming with tours, trips, concerts, exhibitions, discussion groups and an active younger member programme which allows views and experiences to be shared, plans and projects to be formulated in convivial and prestigious surroundings.









# Buckwood: e-Learning for the 21st Century

*Where technology enhances teaching methodology*

It will be appreciated by now that in so many areas Buckwood is a school steeped in old fashioned values. However, there has recently been substantial investment in computer technology, a commitment to innovation showing how advances in educational wizardry have been embraced rather than ignored. Obviously, all scholars are given the opportunity to study Information Technology through the **European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)**, but it is in the school's **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** that staff and pupils can communicate and exchange resources in a way which prepares young people for what is now the academic norm in universities. Prep is more often than not handed in, marked and returned online, but handwriting skills are not lost because through offline task setting, penmanship is still practised for examinations and that all-important personal letter in later life. Scholars now carry with them a fountain pen as well as their laptop.

Each scholar has an online homepage where he or she can see tasks set and completed to date, where teachers can send individually tailored assignments, learning support and suggestions for extension work previously discussed in Access Time. The list of downloadable resources is endless: anything and everything from documents to presentations, movies, photos, music, web-links, newsfeeds, polls and, to find out what's on at the weekend, House news.

The Headmaster takes a leading role in the VLE, posting stimulating and challenging articles which urge Sixth Formers in particular to seek out even more ways of standing out in the crowd.

Nor do Buckwood teachers escape technological advances and monitoring; an observation tool called **IRIS** allows lessons to be recorded, watched and shared with colleagues to improve and enhance the learning and teaching experience.

And finally, to allow parents to keep in constant touch, Buckwood's **online e-portal system** allows instant access to their child's records of progress, achievements, targets, attendance and weekend activities.







# Courses

## Junior School

- A return to traditional values
- Combined with high tech teaching and learning
- Considered a school within a school
- Nurturing environment
- Fountain Pens
- Bench mark CAT testing
- ECDL exams
- Languages – French
- Languages – Spanish
- Languages – Mandarin
- Competitive sports 30 clubs offered
- Clubs
- Debating
- Daily silent prep
- SEN provision
- Form 1 Italy trip
- Form 2 Prague trip
- Northern France War sites
- Form 3 Georgia trip
- Stocks and shares society
- Viticulture
- Leadership courses
- ASDAN
- LAMDA

## GCSE 1 year

- IGCSE
- Five core subjects
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Business
- Languages
- IT
- ECDL
- Limited class size
- Intensive tuition
- Red file revision system
- National and international trips
- International cohort
- Debating
- Daily silent prep
- Intervention strategies
- SEN provision
- Competitive sport
- Lesson nine squads
- Native language tuition
- LAMDA
- Intervention strategies
- Aunt BESSy
- Study Groups

## GCSE 2 years

- Five core subject
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Languages
- Geography
- Three additional options from a choice of 20 different subject (see option sheet)
- IGCSE (one year)
- Debating
- Competitive sports
- Clubs
- Red file revision system
- Intervention policies
- Daily silent prep
- SEN provision
- Business trips to London, Amex Stadium, BMW and Morrisons
- Work experience placements at JP Morgan and the London Academy of Trading training scheme
- ASDAN course
- Worldwide trips including China, France and Iceland
- LAMDA
- Intervention strategies
- Aunt BESSy
- Study Groups

## A Level

- Sixth Form Department
- 100% University entry rate
- Choice of three core A levels
- Plus range of AS levels
- Extra tuition time per A level
- Sixth form study centre
- Supervised study periods
- Competitive sports
- Range of Societies
- Debating
- Specially designed Virtual Learning Environment
- Russell University visits
- Individual UCAS application support
- Close connection to Royal Holloway, St Andrews and UCL
- Work experience placements at JP Morgan and the London Academy of Trading training scheme
- ROSL
- RSA
- Hong Kong
- China
- London
- Wales
- Swaziland
- LAMDA

## Foundation

- University Foundation Course
- Tied to Royal Holloway
- One year course
- 100% University entry rate
- Open to International Scholars
- Business, ICT, Maths focus
- Continual assessment
- Externally moderated
- Specially designed Virtual Learning Environment
- Project based
- Trips to local and national businesses
- Dedicated university assistance
- Supervised study periods
- Range of on-line materials
- End of term controlled assessment
- Individually tailored time tables
- ROSL
- RSA
- Daily silent prep
- SEN provision
- Basic first aid training

## IB

- Intensive baccalaureate course
- Globally recognised qualification
- Specialist teacher provision
- Global focus
- Small, selective cohort
- Six subjects, plus TOK, CAS
- TOK: Theory of knowledge
- CAS: Community Action Service, undertaken in Swaziland
- Range of on-line material
- Specially designed Virtual Learning Environment
- ROSL
- RSA
- Daily silent prep
- SEN provision



## EFL

- Three-level streaming for GCSE years and Sixth Form
- Intensive English provision
- Qualified, experienced teaching staff
- Highly motivating measurement of progress
- Cambridge ESOL examinations on-site
- Key, Preliminary, First and Advanced courses
- Many students achieving IELTS scores in excess of 7.0
- Maximum class size of 16
- Extra English lessons provided where required
- 1-1 lessons available upon request
- Educational and Cultural Study visits
- Supportive tutorial system

## Work Experience and UCAS Points

- ECDL
- GCSE
- IGCSE
- A Levels
- Short courses
- LAMDA
- Duke of Edinburgh
- ASDAN courses
- Community Sport Coaches
- Work experience placements at JP Morgan and the London Academy of Trading training scheme
- Timetabled classes for UCAS/University application

## Short Courses

- ASDAN courses
- SEN courses
- Behavioural courses
- Entry level courses
- Specialist music courses
- EFL courses in Business English
- LAMDA courses
- Elocution
- Debating
- Riding course
- Archery course

## Holiday School

- Half term and holiday revision camps
- Residential
- Geared for GCSE, A Level and IB courses
- Mostly core subjects offered
- Professional academic assistance
- Electronic homework assistance
- Small classes

## Summer School

- 20 hours of English per week
- Trinity College Spoken English Exam (98% pass rate)
- Two full day excursions
- Three half day excursions
- Museum and attraction entrance fees
- Full Afternoon Activity Programme
- Full Evening Activity Programme
- All course materials
- 'A Slice of Britain' programme
- BOSS Diary
- Full board accommodation with en suites for 132 students
- Student travel insurance
- Laundry service
- BOSS Wristband
- Water Bottle
- Boss Work Folder

## Glossary

- Aunt BESSy – Buckswood Educational Support System or monitored extra work
- BEST – Buckswood Educational Support Team or Learning Support
- ASDAN – Award Scheme Development Accreditation Network or Vocational Courses
- IB – International Baccalaureate
- IELTS – International English Language Testing System
- ECDL – European Computer Driving Licence
- ToK – Theory of Knowledge (IB)
- LAMDA – London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts or Public Speaking/Acting examinations
- UCAS – University and Colleges Admissions Service
- Red Coats – the Management Team
- Scholars – young learners, a term of respect
- Matron – the School Housekeeper
- Wisdom, the School dog. A yellow labrador.
- The 1066 Room – the senior library and study centre
- The Fountain Block – the main teaching rooms
- TJs – the 6th Form café
- Buck – a First Year scholar
- Stag – a 6th former





# Buckwood in the Press







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