

Academy Bulletin

14th November 2024



Calendar / Upcoming Events

21st November	GCSE Presentation Evening
27th - 29th November	'A'Lad'In - the Panto' performances (tickets available from main office)
17th December	Year 7-9 Reward Trips
17th December	Year 11 Progress Evening (<i>details to follow</i>)
19th December	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (<i>details to follow</i>)
19th December	Christmas Dinner (<i>details to follow</i>)
20th December	End of Autumn term
7th January	Students return (Week 2)

Access to School Site

A reminder that, for safety reasons, parents/carers should not be accessing the school site to drop off or pick up children at the start or end of the day, unless you have a Parking Permit.

At all times, please follow the speed restrictions displayed along the driveway and consider the concealed entrance on the right just before the main gates, which is used by members of the local community.

Thank you.



Please come along to support our students and staff.

Doors open at 6.30pm - Performance starts at 7.00pm

Refreshments available to purchase.

Adults £7 / Concessions £5

Ipswich Road, Holbrook, Ipswich, IP9 2QX
Tel: 01473 328317 Email: parents@holbrookbrookacademy.org

The Year 10's and 11's Trip to Madrid

Sunday - We arrived at the school at 3 am. for an early start, but the excitement of the trip kept everyone in high spirits. Once the parents had said their goodbyes, we boarded the coaches and made our way to the airport. The flight itself was smooth, although we did have a sudden stop when the brakes were sharply applied upon landing.

We touched down in Madrid at 12 pm local time and headed straight for our hotel. After receiving our room keys, we had some time to settle in before venturing out to explore the city. Our room was smaller than expected, but we made it work with all four of us sharing. The toilet was separate from the sink and shower, which gave us all a bit more privacy and helped avoid any crowding. The room featured two sets of bunk beds, with storage compartments underneath the bottom bunks, creating plenty of floor space for us to spread out. After getting familiar with the local area and enjoying a bit of sightseeing in Madrid, we went to dinner. We dined at La Catedral, where we enjoyed a three-course meal. The restaurant was beautifully decorated in preparation for Halloween, adding a festive touch to our evening. However, everybody was feeling pretty tired so after dinner we went back to the hotel to relax.

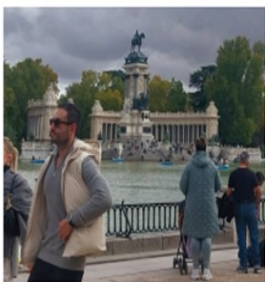


Monday - The day began with a continental breakfast at the hotel, fueling us up for a day of sightseeing. Our first stop was the last remaining gate of the original city wall which used to surround Madrid. Next, we visited Retiro Park, where we took a break to enjoy some refreshments by the beautiful fountain in the centre of the park. In the afternoon we hopped on the metro and headed to the Estadio

Metropolitano (the home of Atletico Madrid). We were given a guided tour of the stadium including a virtual reality experience that gave us the feeling of being right in the middle of a live match. We also had the chance to explore the press conference room, corporate boxes, and changing rooms, which was a real highlight for the football fans on the trip. For dinner, we returned to La Catedral where we had a selection of tapas, including Patatas Bravas, Spanish



Omelette, and mixed olives. Unfortunately, the potato-based dishes didn't go over well with many of us - myself included. So the teachers kindly allowed us to grab some fast food afterward to satisfy our appetites.



Tuesday - We started the day with another continental breakfast - this time I went for croissants with a delicious Spanish chocolate spread, just like most of the others! After breakfast, we set off for the "Insta Haven," also known as Ikono. It was such a fun experience, especially in the giant ball pit, where we spent time jumping in and taking some awesome photos. The themed rooms were perfect for snapping pictures, and we had a blast with the confetti fan.

Afterward, we had some free time, so I grabbed a Starbucks and wandered around the area. Once we all met up again, we headed back to the hotel for a quick rest before hitting the shops on Gran Vía. The shopping was great, with a mix of local stores and familiar chains like H&M and Primark. We took the metro to Chamartín for a fun night of bowling. We enjoyed burgers and chips while



bowling, which was definitely a step up from the tapas we had the night before! I came third in my group, which means I probably need a little more practice to work my way up to the top!



Wednesday - We were picked up from the hotel at 9.30am to head to the Warner Bros Theme Park. Unfortunately the park did not open until midday so we were waiting around at the entrance for a very long time. It was extremely busy and with only 4 hours to spend there, we made the most of it by jumping on as many rides as we could. Lunch was a highlight for me as I managed to get pizza and chips. We had a great day, the weather was good and the rides were much more thrilling than the rides back home. Afterward, we returned to the hotel to relax before heading out for a buffet dinner at the Fresc Co restaurant. Mr Allen had the night off, it was very entertaining watching Mr Le Marrec navigating the streets of Madrid, I helped him which I think he was grateful for. Dinner was good, though the variety was a bit limited. I had pizza again, so I was happy.



Thursday - We had to check out of the hotel by 10 am, so everyone was up early to pack. Once our luggage was placed into storage we made our way to the palace of the Spanish royal family. The exterior and interior of the palace were both designed to reflect the grandeur and wealth of the monarchy, making for an impressive sight. After exploring the palace, we walked to Parque del Oeste to visit a famous temple and take in more of Madrid's rich culture. We were then given some free time to shop at Gran Via and grab lunch before we needed to head to the airport. To pass the time while waiting for our transfer, we explored Plaza de España which was surrounded by gorgeous architecture. After that, we were driven to the airport, where we had a bit of time for some last-minute shopping before boarding our flight. By the time we were on the plane, everyone was exhausted, and most of us slept, myself included. We landed around midnight and quickly caught our transfer back to school, where our parents were waiting to take us home.



It was a great trip and everyone enjoyed it very much. Thank you to all the staff who kindly donated their time so that we could have a fun experience during our half term. If any student gets the opportunity to do this in the future I'd highly recommend it.

Chloe, Year 11

Lost Property

We have a large number of coats in the main office which have not been claimed. Please contact the office if your child has lost a coat or anything else in school. Can we also please remind you to ensure that your child's name is on all items of clothing to ensure these can be returned to them.

Improving School Attendance

Please follow the links for information on the importance of school attendance:-

[How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support](#)

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Useful Information

Links to support services:-

Childline: 0800 1111

The Wellbeing Hub 'Teen Tips' Log in information was provided to parents/carers on 26th May. Please contact the office if you would like the information sent to you directly.

Online bullying www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Kooth - Online counselling service and peer to peer support for young people aged 11-25: www.kooth.com

Emotional Wellbeing Gateway website (Suffolk Infolink Directory) – Information, advice and guidance on common mental health issues. Access to mental health services like the Emotional Wellbeing Hub www.emotionalwellbeinggateway.org.uk

The Source website for young people – Sources of information and advice important to young people in Suffolk, including emotional wellbeing support: www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing

Mental Health Crisis – Call 111, option 2

Sexual Assault: Call NSPCC 0800 136 663 or help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding Information

During school hours, please contact Mrs Alex King (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Miss Crabtree (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) or ask to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team -
01473 328317

At all other times, please contact Customer First : 0808 800 4005 or If you believe there is an emergency and a child is at risk of **immediate harm** please call the Police on **999**.