



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

As we approach half term it is a good time to reflect on the past seven weeks of a most unusual term. Whilst it is clear that this has not been like a typical new academic year, there are aspects which are familiar and there have been some real successes and achievements. Our new Year 7 students are up and running and have made a very favourable impression. Similar comments apply to Year 12, where we have seen a large increase in numbers. Our Year 11 and 13 students face important exams next summer and have also made an excellent start. Attendance at after-school revision sessions is excellent and a reflection of how much our students have missed learning and how keen they are to achieve their very best.

As a school we have had to adapt to the new reality, and we have had to be innovative in what we do. Some important events of the autumn term have had to take place in a different way to normal. For example, our Year 6 Primary Liaison Evening took place as a 'virtual' event. The same approach will be used for our Sixth Form Open Evening later this term. Assemblies are typically happening through platforms like Teams.

Attendance and student behaviour this term have been excellent and I am grateful for your ongoing support.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Since we returned to school in September 2020, 16,451 achievement points have been issued to our amazing students! As a school we have also produced some updated 'Praise Postcards' which will be used when staff believe special student recognition is required. The postcards will be posted home so parents can join in with the celebrations.

It is hoped that the planned introduction of a parent app (see page 5) will provide parents with live updates of achievement points and other important information.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

It is an absolute delight to see our Sixth Form students return to education. Once again our study areas are buzzing with activity as students settle back into the rhythm of school. We are also looking forward to our Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening that is taking place on the website on the 16th November at 6pm. Applications will then go live with the deadline being the 11th December. All information about the courses on offer and a copy of the prospectus can be found [on our website](#).

LOCKDOWN GROUP STORY WRITING

During lockdown, students from Years 7 and 8 worked collaboratively to write eight stories. As the nights draw in and the temperature cools, watch out for their virtual release on the school's social media platforms.

In April this year, Mr Frost (Head of English) set the challenge of a virtual, pass-it-on, story writing challenge. Nineteen students put themselves forward to be involved, having formed eight virtual groups of between one and four members.

In the first week each group was allocated a story title and a figurative blank page on which to start their story. From there, each week the writing was passed on to another group to write the next section.

You can read the results of our experiment each week by following the link on Show My Homework or on the English Department's [Twitter account](#). Be prepared, we couldn't have predicted the outcomes and there is a reason we are sharing them in October: dark fairy tales; Martian landscapes; robotic parents; horrifying serial killers; haunted dolls and even a terrifying Headteacher! However, you WILL be rewarded if you can hold your nerve long enough to read them to the end and we think you will agree that the results are unique but seamless, surprisingly thought provoking and gory in equal measure. Enjoy!

STUDENT UNIFORM THIS WINTER - V NECK JUMPER

This year, it is envisaged that classrooms will be cooler than normal due to maintaining good ventilation to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

With colder months ahead, it is recommended that all students begin to wear the

official Brookfield Community School jumper or a plain black V neck jumper (with no lettering or logos) under their blazer to ensure that they do not become too cold in classrooms.

Students may also decide to wear a white T-shirt or base-layer under their white shirt to provide additional warmth.



GOOD STUDENT ATTENDANCE

During these unprecedented times, I am pleased to report that current whole school attendance is 95%. Whilst slightly below the school's minimum target of 96%, it is significantly higher than the reported national attendance during the Covid-19 crisis. Please could all parents continue supporting their child by encouraging good attendance and punctuality? If your child is too unwell to attend school, please notify Brookfield's student absence line on 01246 568115 before 8:30 every day your child is absent.

RESTART A HEART DAY

On Friday 16th October Year 9 students at Brookfield took part in Restart a Heart Day. Instructors from East Midlands Ambulance Service Trust delivered training via a live-stream on how to perform Covid-safe CPR. Students learned about compression only CPR before attempting this potentially life-saving technique and did themselves proud.



REMOTE LEARNING

As cases of Covid-19 are increasing in our community, we are aware that we may find ourselves in a situation where individual students or cohorts of students are forced to return to remote learning and we have, therefore, put contingency plans in place.

Work will be provided on **Show My Homework**, clearly labelled 'Remote Learning', for isolating students and for some subjects the work will also be available on the **website on the Remote Learning page**. If an entire year group or class is isolating, the teacher, where possible, will be available to answer queries via **Show My Homework** during the time when the lesson is timetabled. If Brookfield teachers, however, are ill themselves this interaction will not be possible.

Students should ensure that when they return to school that they check with their teachers if there is any additional work that they would benefit from completing.

Please note that students who are ill are not expected to complete the remote learning. However, they will be supported with any work missed when they return to school.

If your child does not have access to ICT, please contact us on enquiries@brookfield.derbyshire.sch.uk or by telephone 01246 568115.



TEACHING FUNDAMENTALS

As a means of raising standards and the level of consistency within the classroom, this year we are implementing The Teaching Fundamentals at Brookfield. These fundamentals are being rolled out in all lessons. Training for teachers has begun, and continues to be delivered on aspects of the Teaching Fundamentals. Students have received an assembly to inform them about the implementation of The Brookfield Fundamentals and also about the importance of being ambitious and resilient. The school's values of being respectful, resilient and ambitious continue to be reinforced and are reflected in these new Teaching Fundamentals.



A regularly reviewed seating plan (resilient & ambitious).



Meet and greet (respectful). An established routine for how students arrive and enter lessons.



'Do It Now' retrieval activity (resilient & ambitious). Retrieval tasks immediately ready for students to access learning to develop long-term learning.



Learning objectives shared with the students (resilient & ambitious).



Cold calling - checking understanding (resilient & ambitious). Students directed to answer questions without raising their hands. This encourages all students to be attentive and is a means for teacher to identify if students have clearly grasped the learning taking place.



Tracking the speaker (respectful). Students watching those who are speaking, encouraging active listening.



Moments of silence (resilient, ambitious & respectful). Periods in a lesson where students develop independence and the ability to concentrate.



High expectation of presentation (ambitious).

CAREERS NEWS

Despite the complications of Covid-19, we are still absolutely committed to providing Brookfield students with the Careers education, information, advice and guidance that they need to successfully progress on to aspirational and realistic destinations post -16 and post-18.

We have decided that Work Experience for Years 10 and 12 this year will be virtual. This will include a week of targeted talks with employers from key sectors as well as more general employability skills advice. Likewise, Year 11 mock interviews will also be carried out virtually this year.

I am also pleased to announce that our Post-16 and Post-18 destinations for Year 11 and Year 13 leavers this Summer was yet again very pleasing with the majority of our students continuing on to further and higher education.

Twice the national average of Year 13 students went on to study at a Russell Group university. We have had one student who has been accepted by The University of Oxford to study History.

Finally, 15 of our current Year 13 students have sent off their Early Applicant UCAS applications this week which we are very proud of.

Don't forget, all the careers information and advice you need can be found on the [Careers section of the Brookfield website](#).

This includes information about all the options available to students post-16 and post-18.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

A message from Chesterfield Royal Charity

We would like to invite your child to enter Chesterfield Royal Charity's Annual Charity Christmas Card Competition 2020.

The year 2020 is certainly one that all of us will never forget. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has affected us all in many different ways and we've all experienced a variety of emotions throughout this unprecedented period of time. We've been overwhelmed by the support our Charity has received throughout the pandemic and we hope people will still want to get involved in our good work!

We're asking creative children and young people up to the age of 18 to come up with a design for our Annual Charity Christmas cards. We hope they'll love the opportunity to showcase their talents - especially as we're fond of lots of colour, vivid imaginations and originality! Not only will the chosen designs feature on our Christmas cards - but the winner will also receive a special prize.

We know it's really early to start talking about Christmas, but the sooner we get the designs, the sooner we can get them professionally produced ready for the festive season!

The competition closes at 5.00pm on Friday 13th November 2020. We can't wait to see the talent in our local community!

For more entry information and entry slips, please visit [our website](#).

Ken Godber, Charity Director, Chesterfield Royal Charity



EXAMINATIONS NEWS

Mock exams for Year 11 will begin on Tuesday 3rd November. The mock exam period will provide students with the opportunity to sit papers based on learning completed to date. It will also give them an experience of exam conditions and regulations similar to those in the summer. To support students in their preparation for these mocks and in addition to work being done in lessons, teachers have been offering revision classes after school. There are sessions on every night of the week between 3:00 and 4:00 and attendance so far has been excellent.

Students will receive their mock exam timetable this week. The mock exam period lasts until Friday 13th November and parents will receive feedback on students' performance through the reporting cycle in the week commencing 7/12/20. In addition to the revision sessions offered to Year 11s, Year 13 sessions are underway. Like the Year 11 sessions these have an emphasis on exam content and skills to support students.

Last week the Department for Education (DfE) announced that GCSE, AS and A-level exams will go ahead next summer. Most exams will take place later than usual, with the summer exam series starting on 7th June and ending on 2nd July. Results days will consequently be later too with Tuesday 24th August assigned for A levels and Friday 27th August given for GCSEs.

Mr M Robinson, Assistant Headteacher

THE SIMS PARENT APP

We excited to announce that soon we will be introducing SIMS Parent App. The SIMS Online Parent App is a convenient new way to share information with you about your child's school life. You can access the system easily from a smart-phone, tablet or PC.

What will you find in the SIMS Parent App?

- Important information such as attendance, achievement and timetable.
• School calendar, INSET dates and contact details available at the click of a button.
• Access to your child's school reports.
• Access to the contact form to update your child's contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.
• If you have more than one child at school, you will have access to information for all your children, from the same app.



The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Rows include: Friday 23rd October (School Closes for Half Term Holiday), 26th-30th October (Half Term Holiday), Monday 2nd November (School Reopens), 3rd-13th November (Year 11 Mock Exams), Friday 6th November (Remembrance Day in School), Monday 16th November (Sixth Form Virtual Open Day - 6pm), Wednesday 18th November (Year 13 Parents' Evening), 21st-22nd November (DofE Award Bronze Qualifying Expedition), Monday 30th November (INSET Day - School Closed to Students).

