



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

This is a special time of year and I hope you are looking forward to the festive break. Even in non-Covid-19 times, the Autumn term is very long and busy for students and staff. The holiday period is a welcome opportunity to spend time with family and friends, where safe to do so. That said, in school we have been keen to have 'business as usual' until the end of term. Although some of the usual festive activity has not been possible, plenty has, including the charitable work from staff and different year groups, so thank you for your support with donations and raffles. Our Virtual Christmas Arts Festival goes live on Thursday this week on the school [website](#) will also help to ensure you get into the Christmas spirit!

I think it is now important to look forward to 2021 and the opportunities this will present, as opposed to the challenges and uncertainties of 2020. For many students - for example, Years 11 and 13 - this year is crucial, and every lesson is important. All students will be supported in their academic and wider school life. It is important that we get back to normal in all aspects of life and I am looking forward to 2021 for this reason.

On behalf of all staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



Daisy Leaning - Winner

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

This term has seen the return of the Christmas card design contest taking place in Art, with many students creating wonderful drawings. The theme this year was The Birds of Christmas and the winning artwork is featured on the Brookfield Christmas card. Daisy Leaning of 9F was selected as the winner. Sylvie Kurcewicz (10I) and Alex Goddard (9I) also produced outstanding images and were very close runners up.



Alex Goddard (9I)



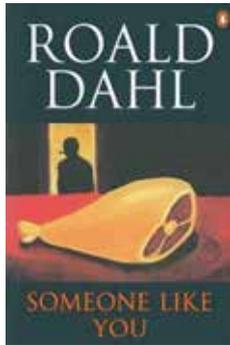
Daisy Leaning (9F)



Sylvie Kurcewicz (10I)

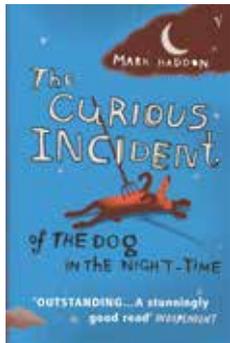
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS TO CURL UP WITH!

Please see below for the latest staff recommendations of those life-changing books that you simply must read. Perhaps they might provide inspiration for some last-minute Christmas stocking fillers!



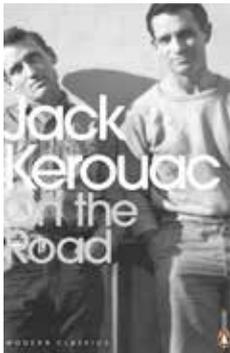
Someone Like You by *Roald Dahl*. Recommended by Mr Swift.

I recommend 'Someone Like You' by Roald Dahl. It is a collection of short stories which all have an excellent twist in the tail. This is a great book for lovers of Roald Dahl who have read his children's books and want to read more of his work. Some of the short stories were made into episodes of a TV series called 'Tales of the Unexpected'. This is a book I have read many times, and love to pick up again and again!



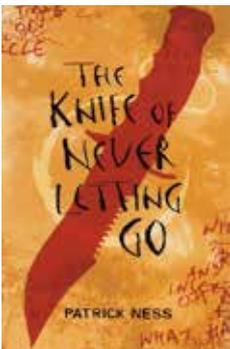
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by *Mark Haddon*. Recommended by Miss Cooke.

A great read for age 14+ with a fantastic play to accompany it. Teenager Christopher writes a book about his experiences solving the murder of his neighbour's dog. However, he uncovers far more. Christopher has autism and the way he writes is an insight into his world and the worlds of many others like him.



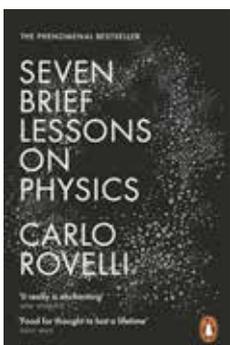
On The Road by *Jack Kerouac*. Recommended by Mr Frost.

Kerouac's sprawling, frenetic account of 'beat' adventures across 1950s North America helped me imagine a world beyond what I knew. I was attracted to the rebellious idea that writing didn't necessarily have to be something to craft and redraft, but something that could be an expression of the urgent and immediate rhythms of living and life. Kerouac's descriptions of the music in jazz clubs in this book are probably the best examples of this. If I hadn't read this book when I was young I don't think I'd have been imbued with the adventurous spirit that made me want to leave Wales and see more of the world. Who knows, maybe I would never have even seen Chesterfield!



The Knife of Never Letting Go by *Patrick Ness*. Recommended by Mr Pattison.

This is Book 1 of the 'Chaos Walking' trilogy by Patrick Ness. It's a great book for young adults. It's about to be made into a film so before they butcher it, it's probably worth reading! An interesting story which begs questions about privacy, gender discrimination and racial discrimination.



Seven Brief Lessons In Physics by *Carlo Rovelli*. Recommended by Mr Frost.

This is a beautifully written book for anyone who has an interest in science, space or the world around them. The writing is luminous and engaging in the explanation and application of seven main principles of physics. It draws the reader in as it turns simple ideas into complex theories and then weaves them into the world around us. I have a small hard back copy but it is available in paperback too.

DEPUTY HEAD'S UPDATE

In what has been an extremely difficult and challenging year, I would like to thank all stakeholders for their continued support. Our students have displayed incredible resilience and maturity since returning to school post-lockdown. Students' behaviour and attitudes towards keeping Covid-19 safe have been exemplary. Congratulations to all.



Some recent highlights I would like to mention are the :

- The amazing Year 7 hampers
- The food bank contributions from Years 8 to 13
- The continued support of the Brookfield Parents and Friends Association (BPFA) who have recently purchased some additional outdoor seating for our students
- The improved ICT solutions, enabling Parent Pay, virtual parents' evenings and online learning, include the recent introduction of live online lessons when required
- The new and improved website.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff, who have displayed amazing hard work and dedication, and have overcome personal and professional challenges to ensure Brookfield has remained open, allowing students to continue their learning journey. I wish everyone a restful, healthy and safe Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

Mr Cronin, Deputy Headteacher



DEBATING TEAM UPDATE

Initiated in 2019, students in the Brookfield Community School Debating Society work together to learn new skills and develop confidence in formulating arguments and discussing the most controversial and contentious topics. Last year, we entered our team in the prestigious ESU Schools Mace Competition, an annual national debating tournament for secondary schools.

Although only in its second year, the debating team has continued to thrive in 2020, in spite of the challenges posed by coronavirus restrictions. With continued interest and commitment the founding members returned in September 2020 and were joined by a number of enthusiastic and talented Year 12 students (Anja Raine, Sam Kitchen, Ruby Serjeant, Dan Kellett and Evie Dixon) and a further Year 13 student (Charlie Loveland). Covid-19 has presented many challenges for all of us, and this was no exception for the Debating Team. But with the help of technology the team has adapted to the circumstances, connecting virtually to discuss and debate the key issues of the time.

Currently, the team are working towards the first round of the ESU Schools Mace competition, to be held in January 2021. The pressure is on for the team to pull together points from various pieces of research on the motion: "This House believes that government economic policy should prioritise the collective happiness and well-being of the population over economic growth". This motion is highly relevant to society today, with government policy makers having to make critical decisions when balancing conflicting interests of public welfare and economic policy.

The team is also looking to collaborate with other local schools to hold debates and enter further competitions as they open up. The society has allowed not only discussion on relevant and controversial topics but created friendships, enhanced skills, developed knowledge and given members the opportunity to grow in confidence as well as ability. The experience gained through debating will benefit members for years to come.

Head Girl Laura Bagley, on behalf of The Debating Team (facilitated by Mr Cliff)



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YEAR 9?

As for all the Brookfield year groups it has been a difficult Autumn Term, with lots of change and adjustment experienced by the students, but Year 9 have coped admirably with all that has been presented to them. As we approach the end of this term many of the year group participated in the Christmas Jumper Day and contributed to the Chesterfield Food Bank; both notable and worthwhile causes showing a wider connection to society and our community.



Those characteristics of resilience, maturity and fortitude will be needed in the new term as students face in-class assessments in the first week back, and we will still be dealing with some elements of Covid-19. Students also have impending decisions surrounding their Y9 Options. It is likely that a lot of the information surrounding options will be delivered virtually, with both Year 9 Parents' Evening and Year 9 Options Evening in an online format.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank the year team staff for their hard work and contribution over the last 14-weeks - it has been invaluable in running the year group and providing the best support possible. It is a great shame therefore that we see three of the team leave the school at the end of the term. Mrs Shaw and Miss Whelan have been well liked and well respected form tutors to a number of forms over the years and their moving on will be a great loss to the forms they currently support. Mr Jackson also moves on from Brookfield after many years' service. He has not only been a form tutor, but a long-standing Assistant Head of Year and Head of Year, including the Head of Year for this intake through Year 7 and part of Year 8. I would personally like to thank him for his time, knowledge, insight and guidance over many years with both this year group and our previous year group. We will certainly miss his presence and contribution.



Mr Greenwood, Head of Year 9

YEAR 7 BPFA CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

In what is becoming something of a Christmas Tradition the BPFA contacted us in early November asking for the help of Year 7 to put together some Christmas Hampers that would be part of the Christmas raffle and raise some money for the school. Both students and form tutors have worked incredibly hard during November and put some excellent hampers together. The generosity of the Brookfield community is always incredibly pleasing to see, especially in a year where the usual celebrations in the run up to Christmas are not possible. A huge thanks to all those who donated; we are sure the lucky raffle winners will enjoy their hampers over the Christmas holidays.



INTRODUCING: THE ARC

Welcome to our newest facility at Brookfield Community School - The ARC.

The ARC features a number of rooms where staff and children work together to support their social, emotional and mental health. Within the ARC is the **Achieve** room, where students can chat and chill in a non-classroom environment, the **Reflection** space is a 1:1 intervention room for students to work with their key workers, reflecting and talking about any issues they may face. The **Challenge** room is a traditional classroom for small groups to attend booster classes or complete their ASDAN studies. Alongside the ARC rooms we have also created a Therapy Suite, where children have access to specialist resources and equipment to support physio sessions, sensory, relaxation and mindfulness activities. The ARC has its own garden, where students are looking forward to horticulture and gardening lessons.

Students have been very busy in The ARC this half term working on their ADSAN short courses alongside Entry Level English and Math skills. Alongside the written work, we use lots of practical resources and sessions to build skills and enhance learning. In Science, the students have been looking at an experiment to see if cans of different drinks sink or float and the reason behind this – did you know a can of Diet Coke will float but a can of regular coke will sink? They then looked at pH including an experiment to test different soft drinks.

As part of our Gardening course, we have been looking at garden wildlife, completing a survey of our school garden and researching ways to make bird feeders. We then made some using pine cones and birdseed before hanging them for our feathered friends in the school garden. In English, the students have been studying heroism, reading about Grace Darling, Harriet Tubman and 20th century heroes like Malala Yousafzai and astronauts from space missions including Laika the dog! We have used some fantastic films including first person accounts from BBC Teach to enhance the students' learning and they are now going on to write their own heroic stories.

We are incredibly proud of our new ARC facility, we are so pleased that we can offer a 'haven' for students to access when circumstances become tricky.

If you would like to know more about the ARC and our SEMH programmes, please contact [Pippa Allan](#). You can also find The ARC on Instagram, just follow [brookfieldarc](#).



YEAR 7 TALENT SHOWCASE

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their time at Brookfield during this first term. They have coped with the changes and challenges of secondary school in a very positive way. The added challenge of additional rules and things to remember due to Covid-19 has been taken on board admirably.

They are now confident young members of our school community, working hard in all curriculum areas and receiving lots of positive praise from teaching staff.

Throughout November, Year 7 students were set the challenge of sharing some of their talents that we have not had the chance to see in school. Many students have sent in video and pictures of the things they excel at and enjoy outside of school and it has been great to see what a talented bunch we have.

The range of talent and the dedication they have shown to these additional activities is incredibly inspiring and I hope that when extracurricular activities resume properly at school they will make the most of every opportunity.

The Year 7 Talent Showcase will be shown in all Year 7 forms during the last few days of term. Well done Year 7!

INSET DAY REMINDER

A reminder that we now have an INSET day scheduled on Friday 18th December.

School will be closed to students on this day.

STUDENTS DONATE TO FOOD BANK

Brookfield students have shown a stunning effort in their collections for the Chesterfield Food Bank. As a school we have been raising awareness of the importance of food banks in the community and encouraged students to donate food items by placing them in their form room collection box. This year these collections also form part of a wider initiative across Redhill Academy Trust schools, who have all been collecting similar donations for food banks in their local areas

Covid-19 has had a disastrous impact on job security and financial stability nationally and Chesterfield is also likely to be hard-hit by the economic consequences of the pandemic. There has, therefore, been an increase in the number of people who require the help of their local food bank and food banks need more donations than ever before.

Within one week of asking students to donate items, we had boxes full of food items to donate. We are hoping that many families in the local community will benefit from their generosity.



AN UPDATE FROM YEAR 10

Year 10 have made a smooth, successful transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 starting their GCSE courses. Students have risen to the challenge of high expectations of engagement for their chosen subjects and even at this early stage are demonstrating their commitment to learning and their potential.

As the winter term has progressed Year 10 continue to be proactive in supporting a variety of causes; wearing festive jumpers for Christmas Jumper Day and their impressive donations for Chesterfield Food Bank, which has created some healthy competition between forms in the year group.

On behalf of Mrs Nash, Assistant Head of Year and the Year 10 form tutors, we would like to say well done to making a positive start to this year and keep up the hard work. Have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe.

Miss Ridgeway, Head of Year 10



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS ARTS FESTIVAL

Work is underway to put the finishing touches to our Virtual Christmas Arts Festival. In recent weeks we have seen Year 7 auditions with a fantastic mix of songs, dances, guitar solos and speeches.

We have performers from all year groups along with a staff rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas", readings from "'twas the Night before Christmas", original songs, a range of traditional carols, a rip-roaring A Level pantomime of Cinderella, harpists, special effects makeup work, virtual art galleries from our student artists and a special sign language song from our Year 7s.

The event will be available on our [website](#) from 17th December for our families and wider community to enjoy.

We hope to spread some festive cheer whilst also showcasing the talents of our students who have shown such resilience in the face of the changes to how performances are able to work.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	School closes for students (2:55pm)
Thursday 17th December	Virtual Christmas Arts Festival (4pm)
Friday 18th December 2020	INSET Day - School closed
Monday 4th January 2021	Spring Term Begins
4th - 8th January	Healthy Lifestyles Week
11th - 22nd January	Year 13 Mock Exams
Thursday 28th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Details TBC)

