



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Since the last edition of Brookfield News school has really started to take steps towards pre-Covid levels.

Lots of extra-curricular activity is now underway with a range of sports clubs now up and running, and preparation is in full swing for our summer concert. Other activities include Year 7 Guitar Club and Chess Clubs. Hopefully, after 21st June, we can begin to relax 'bubbles' to allow whole Key Stage activities, rather than being restricted to single year groups.

Planning is advanced for the summer term, with Year 6 transition meetings with primary schools currently taking place. We also welcome our new Year 12 students next month for their Sixth Form Induction.

I am sure you will share our hope that next academic year will be a return to normal school life where our students will have the experience they deserve.

We also bid farewell to three popular colleagues this week. Mr Styles (Head of Maths), leaves to take up a post at Sheffield UTC after 13 years at Brookfield, and Mrs Hughes, Pastoral Support Assistant, leaves us to join Whittington Green school. Teaching Assistant Mrs Pritchett also leaves us after 15 years. We wish them all every success.

Wishing you a very restful half term break.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



YOUNG GEOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

The Young Geographer of the Year is the Royal Geographical Society's national competition which recognises the outstanding work of the next generation of geographers, and Brookfield students will be getting involved.

For this year's competition the Royal Geographical Society are asking young people to create an annotated map which reveals how their lives have been shaped by the Covid pandemic.

They are interested to see maps which illustrate and describe:

- Which local human and physical features they and their family used during the pandemic
- Why some places were especially important to young people
- The places they couldn't visit and why
- If the pandemic has led to them experiencing any new places in their local area
- How the pandemic changed their geographical understanding of their local area
- Any links which 'stretch' their maps to other places which were also important to them during the pandemic.

Students in Key Stage 3 and Year 10 will be working on their entries in lesson-time over the coming term, and we can't wait to see the outcome of their efforts.

MOVING UP TO BROOKFIELD

Our Year 6 transition process, Moving Up To Brookfield, continues to move at a pace.



The Year 6 Welcome to Brookfield Evening, which took place on Thursday 22nd April, was very well attended, but if you missed out, it can still be found on [our website](#).

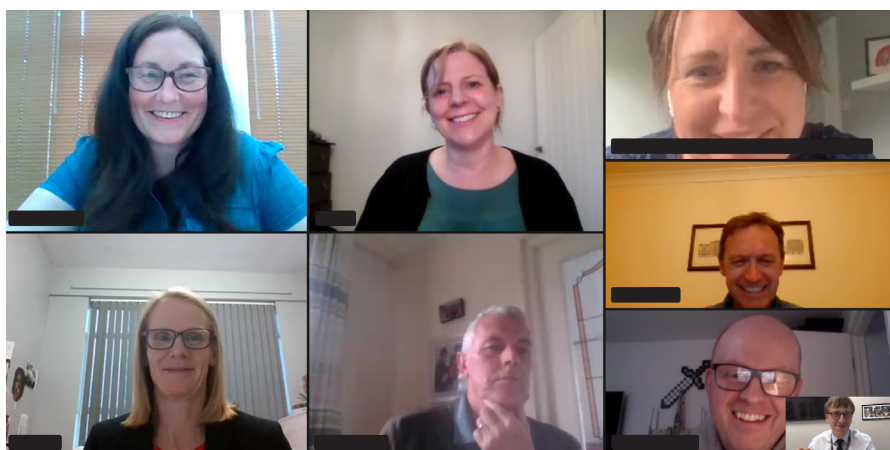
Transition meetings are currently taking place with our feeder Primary Schools in readiness for our rollover period, which is scheduled to take place from 19th to 23rd July.

For all the latest transition news keep an eye on our website, and follow [Moving Up To Brookfield](#) on Twitter.

OFSTED PARENT VIEW

Many thanks to those who completed our recent 'Parent / Carer Survey'. This has now closed and we will be sharing the results of the survey next half term.

A reminder that you can also provide feedback to the Ofsted Parent View portal. This can be found by clicking [here](#).



PARENT FORUM A SUCCESS

The latest Parent Forum meeting took place earlier this month, and hopefully the last one to be held remotely using Microsoft Teams. Really interesting discussions took place on topics ranging from homework to reporting and parents' evenings. As always, the feedback received from parents and carers is extremely important and useful for school in identifying priority areas. Many thanks to all took the time to come and share their views.

The next Parent Forum will take place in the Autumn term and further details will follow.



YEAR 7 GET BACK IN THE GROOVE

It has been a pleasure to see our Year 7 students settle back into over school over the last half term. Returning to the structure of the school day and the difference in pace from home learning has been a big change and it has certainly been noticeable that students are tired and in need of a rest by the end of the week. It is very pleasing, however, to see that students are excited to be back in the classroom and very keen to get on with learning. As the restrictions are easing, having the opportunity to experience some of wider school life has also been very well received. Football, Chess, Netball and Dance have all seen a very positive uptake. The prospect of a sports trip to Barcelona in the autumn term next year has also been very popular and I really hope this gets to run and no restrictions impact it. The summer term is a great time at school, with additional activities such as sports day to look forward to. Other aspects of school life such as the ability to hold assemblies again have also been welcome as this is something that Year 7, up until this point, have not had the opportunity to take part in. There is lots to look forward to over the next term and I am sure, as they have already shown, that our Year 7 students will make the most of every opportunity.

SOCIOLOGY FEAST

Having completed the course and finished their end of course assessments, Year 13 Sociology students have been learning some essential culinary skills that will come in handy when moving onto University and beyond. The group learned how to make a Mexican snack dish, consisting of homemade nachos, tomato salsa and guacamole, facilitated by Mr Cliff and supported by Mrs Taylor and Mrs Shaw.

NEW HOUSE AND TUTORING SYSTEMS

Work is well underway on Brookfield Community School's exciting new House and vertical tutoring systems. The Heads of House are in the process of recording an information video to be shared with parents and students, explaining how the systems will work. It is hoped that our new House and tutoring systems will improve extra-curricular opportunities and foster a caring, community culture within each of the five Houses.

Students have recently voted for their preferred House Tie design and the winning design is now on order. All existing students will be asked to exchange their old tie for a House Tie (no charge) during tutor time.

Further details about the House System and the Vertical Tutoring System will be shared in term 6 via a letter to parents and carers, an FAQ sheet and a video on the school website.



AN ODE TO YEAR 11

So, we find ourselves now in unprecedented times,
Where we have broken from the paradigm,
As usually you would be preparing for your upcoming GCSEs,
But this has been thwarted by a global disease,
It is strange to contemplate that soon it will be time to say goodbye.

Now I realise that some of you are anxious about what happens next,
And the thought of not doing exams has meant you feeling quite vexed,
There's a lot of uncertainty about the future months,
But I want you to be resilient and determined in whatever you confront,
And then you go on to your next destination be it year 12 or college.

It is with mixed sadness and optimism that I write this today,
And reflect on the past years and the parts you have played,
In continuing the future of our school and its onward journey,
And along the way I know it hasn't always been easy,
But throughout your lives fondly remember your school times,
Because it will provide you with a grounding which may come as some surprise.

For you five years possibly have gone by in a blink,
So it is important for us to try and say goodbye,
The farewells before would have involved films, music and possibly a long speech,
But in this unusual period of time, I'd thought I'd be unique,
So I thought I'd take this opportunity to clarify
That I think you are all amazing!
I will miss you students hugely, you are a real credit to this place,
Your individuality and personality have shone through.

Within this school, you will have met people who will know you to the end,
Some will be acquaintances, partners and even life-long friends,
Some of the choices you will make at times may certainly lack clarity,
But it's important to hold on to your core values and priorities,
Now we are getting closer to the moment that you can leave with your head held high,
And for us all to say our goodbyes.

You've had an incredible five years and we truly thank you all,
We will miss you greatly and wish you all the very best,
Your future years will be exciting but at times it will be quite a test,
So, for my final message, without being too sentimental,
Be safe, be happy and go and change the world!

Ms Williams

Head of Year 11 2021.

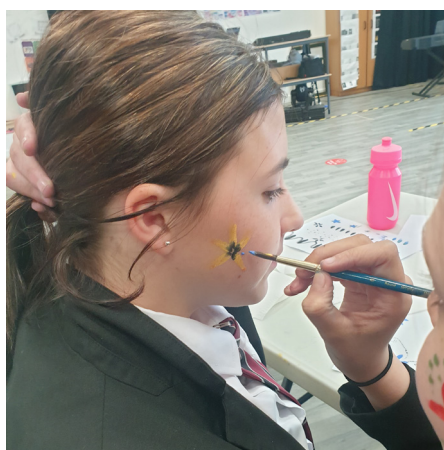
GRAB THEM BY THE HEADLINE

Guardian writer Joel Golby provided invaluable support for the Sixth Form journalism group in two May meetings. London-based freelancer Joel, a Brookfield alumnus, read and provided feedback to the team on articles they submitted to him, some of which have appeared in the school newsletter and S40 magazine, while others are destined for other publications.

Editor George Harris, who is hoping to study journalism at Cardiff University from September, submitted a piece he had drafted for his regular football column in "Twist" magazine, while another football-themed piece, by Year 12 student Dan Kellett, had been written for "Our Football League", a publication set up with his brother Matt, another former Brookfield student. They were joined by fellow writer Anja Raine, whose piece on the loss of the "snow day" readers may have seen in a previous newsletter was well-received by Joel, who commended the way she had made a lively article from an interesting nugget of an idea.

Meanwhile, Phoebe Spacie, also in Year 12, received feedback on a piece written before Christmas for S40 magazine. Joel admired her opening paragraph, describing it as "perfect".

It is hoped that Joel will be able to visit the school in the near future to develop his work with A-Level students at the invitation of Head of Sixth Form and Careers Co-ordinator, Sarah Metcalfe-Murgatroyd



PERFORMING ARTS CLUBS ARE BACK WITH A BANG!

In the Performing Arts Department extra-curricular activities have started with a bang following the easing of restrictions. Every night after school there is a hive of activity around the performing arts rooms. Our drama clubs are busy, with Year 7 are working towards a performance for our new Year 6 students, and Years 8 and 9 are learning professional make-up techniques in preparation for a festival photoshoot. Over in music, our Year 7 guitar club are currently working towards forming their own band to compete in a battle of the bands competition.

Elsewhere work has started in earnest for our summer show, with Year 10 and 12 exploring Shakespeare texts, the Key Stage 3 dance clubs are busy choreographing some energetic pieces to show off their best moves, our Year 7 choir are exploring harmonies and rhythms to showcase, and students in Years 8 and 10 are also working towards our summer show.

Details of our summer show will be released soon - keep an eye on the school website and social media channels for further information in due course, but we can tell you to keep the July 7th free!

DELIBERATE FIRES

Over the last half term Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service have noted a sharp increase in fire incidents started by young people in the local area. If you, or your child, have any information on individuals starting fires please contact FireStoppers anonymously on 0800 169 5558, to help us prevent this type of incident in the future and protect our community.

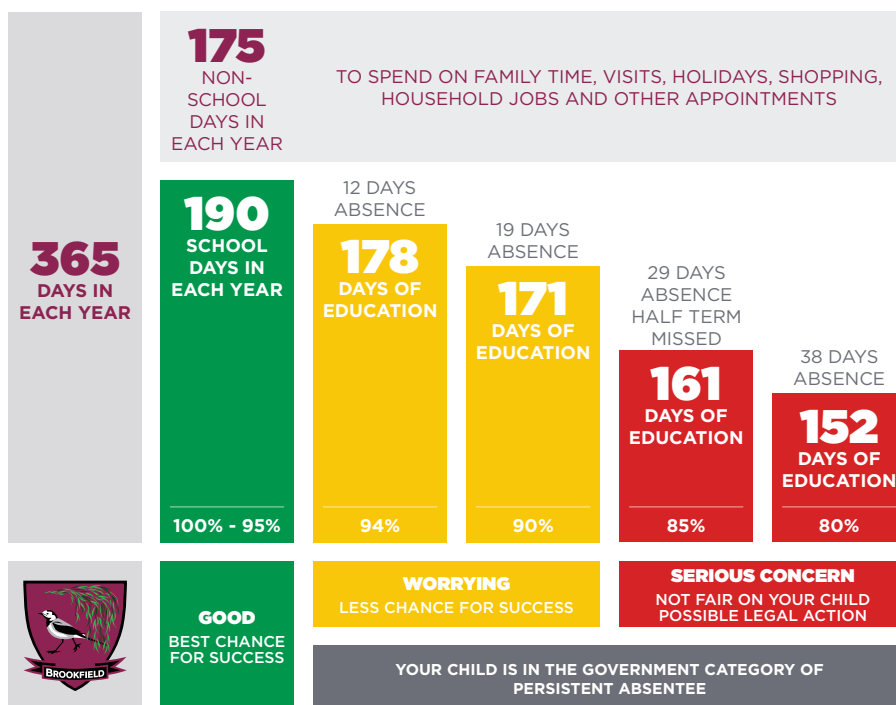
This type of incident not only endangers wildlife and stops others from enjoying the area, it also prevents firefighters being available for serious incidents like house fires or road traffic collisions where there may be an immediate risk to life.

YEAR 10 UPDATE

Year 10 are about to embark on preparation for the upcoming mock exams in June. Subject staff will be guiding students through the process of preparing for the exams; looking at content and revision techniques. While we are aware this is a daunting and stressful time for the students, it is good practice and experience in preparation as we fast approach Year 11. Students will need to plan their revision time carefully and balance it with breaks. Importantly, students must be mindful of their health and ensure they observe lifestyle approaches that will contribute to their well-being such as a balanced diet, good sleep, exercise and monitoring screen-time. Subject teachers, form tutors and their Head of Year are able to support with any concerns no matter how big or small at this time. Year 10, you continue to do us proud; all we ask is you do your best.

GOOD ATTENDANCE AT BROOKFIELD

There is a clear link between good attendance and good academic progress. The graphic below illustrates how academic success is negatively affected when student attendance drops below 95%. Since returning to school on 8th March 2021, I am pleased to inform you that student attendance has been 95.06%. This is above the normal national average and significantly above current national attendance statistics. Please could I politely remind parents to inform the school by telephone by 08:30 every morning that your child is not attending school. Mr Cronin, Deputy Headteacher.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 17th June	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 21st June	Post 18 Options Evening
Monday 28th June	Sixth Form Induction
Thursday 1st July	Primary Transition Evening
Wednesday 7th July	Summer Show TBC
Thursday 8th July	Year 11 Prom
Friday 9th July	INSET Day – school closed for students
Wednesday 14th July	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday 15th July	Year 13 Prom
Friday 16th July	Sports Day & Post 18 Day for Year 12
Monday 19th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
19th - 23rd July	Roll-over period (Years 6 - 10)
Friday 23rd July	Summer Term ends (1pm)
Tuesday 10th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 12th August	GCSE Results Day