



BROOKFIELD NEWS

Issue 6

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

It seems that no sooner do we come back from the Christmas break, that we look up to find February half term before us. This has been an incredibly busy, productive and enjoyable half term. I know many of you joined us last week for the school production of 'Guys and Dolls' and I know how thoroughly impressed you will have been with the event. The overall quality and attention to detail – on the part of students and staff – was striking and I think provided a clear example of the school's ongoing commitment to excellence.

Next term promises to be no less busy. For Year 11 and 13 students, preparations continue for summer exams, with an extensive revision programme in place in class and after school. On Thursday 19th March parents will be invited to school for a 'Brookfield/Redhill Update' session, where myself and Redhill Executive Headteacher, Tim Croft, will provide an update of developments at the school and our partnership with Redhill. In addition, on Wednesday 1st April we will be hosting a 'Year 11 Revision Evening' for parents and students.

On behalf of all staff at Brookfield, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support this year, and to wish you the very best for the half term break.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher

LEARNING SUPPORT OPENS ITS DOORS

We are extremely pleased to announce the opening of our new Learning Support area, situated in the heart of the school on the ground floor, next to the main reception. It's an impressive refurbishment which includes a reading corner, intervention areas and a sensory space. The students are also enjoying having their own private outdoor area, with picnic benches and raised flower beds.

Learning Support is a quiet resourced area used by students during the day for 1:1 support from our wonderful team of teaching assistants, mentoring sessions or small group learning. At social times it becomes a hive of activity in the buzz room, where children play board games, build Lego structures or just chat and chill. In the quiet room, students can listen to music on headphones, read quietly or colour and draw.

The Learning Support team are committed to helping students to develop skills and ensure their needs are met within school, enabling them to reach their maximum potential. By working closely with subject teachers we promote a unified approach, ultimately allowing our students to grow and thrive and to become independent learners.



ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK

Brookfield's Environmental Action Group organised a week of activities during the last week of the half term to raise awareness of a range of environmental issues. Students organised a range of activities which included a staff and student litter pick, a vegetarian day in the canteen, lunchtime paper recycling and a range of presentations given to all staff and students. A big well done to all who helped organise the events.

RSC SCHOOL ANALYST COMPETITION

A team of 3 Year 12 Brookfield Chemists, (James Allen, Ellie Coppinger and Rebecca Riley), took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's School Analyst Competition, held this year at Sheffield Hallam University. A total of fourteen teams from schools around the region took to the Analytical Chemistry lab to tackle a fiendish problem based on the water quality around deteriorating coral reefs. The teams used some familiar techniques such as titrations as well as new ones such as Atomic Absorption and Flame Photometry. The team performed admirably under pressure and finished just out of the medal positions - lunch and a lecture on Mass Spectrometry by the world renowned Dr. Malcom Clench followed. A great day for three of Brookfield's finest scientists... And Mr. Lees too!



YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

It's important to prepare students for interviews with future employers and further education providers. It's very unlikely that anyone will go through life without being interviewed! So, as part of Brookfield's careers and employability programme, Year 11 students have a mock interview. The process includes completing an electronic 'application form' detailing academic and career plans and goals, emailing it out and finally, an interview with a real employer and provision of feedback.

The main benefits of mock interviews are firstly, to help reduce stress and anxiety about interviewing - mock interviews provide a great opportunity for students to 'test-drive' their responses to interview questions. Secondly, they help boost confidence. Our experienced volunteer interviewers, who range from retired business people or local employers to local headteachers, will point out an individual's strengths in both verbal and written feedback. By having confidence in knowing their skills, students will perform better in an actual interview. Finally, our interviewers provide constructive feedback in a low-stress environment. No one is the perfect candidate, so mock interviews help clarify responses to certain questions and help the students to work on areas where they may have weaknesses.

Whilst many students have naturally felt a little apprehensive before their interview, most emerge from their fifteen-minute interview smiling, feeling more confident and appreciating the value of the programme. Work Experience Co-ordinator Mrs Beards and the five Y11 PD tutors have been very impressed so far with the students' attitude to mock interviews this year. The programme continues after half term.

BARCELONA FOOTBALL TOUR IN OCTOBER 2020

On the 21st - 28th of October 2020 there will be a football tour aimed at 50 students from current Year 7, 8, and 9. The tour includes a 7 night full board stay in the 4-star Hotel Olympic garden in Lloret de Mar, which has a water park, indoor pools, 5-a-Side football court and tennis courts, situated just outside of Barcelona. There will be 3 football fixtures against local Spanish teams, a tour of the famous Barcelona football ground the Nou Camp, the Olympic Park and the famous city of Barcelona itself. Travel will be by coach with full use of this throughout the tour. To be eligible for the trip, students must access Football Training after February half term on a Wednesday afternoon, from 3-4pm. If over-subscribed, places will be filled by observations of behaviour and attitude to learning in school, and time spent in extra-curricular clubs. The cost of the trip will be £559 per student. Please see PE staff for a letter if you are interested in the trip.



SPORTING SUCCESS!

We are very proud of our Year 7 girls football team who won the Chesterfield District Football tournament and will go on to compete in the English Schools' FA tournament in the new year. The KS4 3v3 Basketball team won a local schools competition against Springwell Academy and Outwood Academy Newbold. The KS4 Badminton team beat St Mary's and Outwood Academy Newbold in a small competition to qualify for the Chesterfield Badminton Finals. Our Year 9 sports leaders have now completed their qualification training and will now be hosting numerous sporting events around school for the Year 7s as an inter-form competition. We look forward to developing them as leaders and as people. The KS3 boys, KS4 boys and KS4 girls all competed in the Chesterfield SSP Badminton Finals for 2020 at Queens Park Sports Centre on Monday 27th February. All teams came 2nd in the district. The KS3 badminton team managed to finish 2nd in a local competition with local school to qualify for the Chesterfield Badminton Final.



Year 7 Girls: Pollyanna Wilmot, Ella Boyland, Lily Hudson-Pitcher, Olivia Beresford, Evie Carter, Lucy Gee, Jasmine Kerfoot

3v3 Basketball Team: Jake Harper, Leo Fretwell, George Marsden, Jack Davidson, Ben Money, Jacob Holmes

KS3&4 Badminton Team: Fen Lees, Jack Stone, Harry Boler, Oliver Addy, Oliver Barnett, Dylan More, Oliver Baggaley, Emily Hamshaw, Rhianna Keighley, Jess Henry, Evie Dixon

ENTERPRISE PAYS

Two Year 12 Young Enterprise companies, Bright Buddies and Urban Jars, represented Brookfield in the area Trade Fair last Thursday. The fair took place in the Pavements Shopping Precinct, and comprised teams from schools from across the county. Both Brookfield groups put on impressive displays, and recorded good sales figures making it both an enjoyable and financially worthwhile experience. Bright Buddies were selling socially ethical road safety kits for primary schools. Urban Jars have a carbon-neutral recycling message.

They also had to make a presentation to the judges and then face a series of probing questions. Comments from the judges included:

“Urban Jars were smart, confident & convincing – very impressive!”

“Bright Buddies were enthusiastic, realistic, confident, and really very good. We enjoyed meeting and hearing from them.”



SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT!

Our School Production was once again a roaring success, with a sell-out audience enjoying the final performance of *Guys and Dolls* on Saturday 8th February, giving a standing ovation to the wonderful cast of students involved in the show. Some highlights of the production can be seen below. The question on everyone's lips is, 'What are we doing next year?!'



Dates for your Diary

Monday 24th February	Spring Term Starts
Tuesday 25th February	Year 12 Parents Evening, 4pm - 7pm
Thursday 27th February	Parents Forum, 6pm to 7pm
2nd - 13th March	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 19th March	Brookfield / Redhill Update Session
Wednesday 1st April	Year 11 Revision Evening