



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

It is safe to say that this has been a year like no other, and one I am sure we all hope is not repeated. No-one would have imagined back in September that Year 11 and 13 students would not be able to sit their final exams this summer. This was very disappointing for staff and students, who had been working hard in preparation. Online learning will never be a replacement for being in school, and social interaction is an important part of the education experience. That said, the use of resources like [Show My Homework](#) has led to a huge increase in online learning. Since March there have been almost 10,000 pieces of work set, with a range of creative and engaging resources produced. We have been impressed with the level of engagement maintained by students, and the level of support provided by families at this time.

The summer term is often a time for 'goodbyes', and this week we're sending our very best wishes to members of both teaching and support staff who are leaving Brookfield.

We are planning carefully for the full re-opening of school in September, ensuring we have in place plans to reacquaint our students with school, and to make the return as smooth and enjoyable as possible. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Wishing you all a very peaceful summer break.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

We must not let the Coronavirus situation obscure that this year has been extremely eventful, with some real success stories and achievements. A reminder of some of our highlights are below, although the list is by no means exhaustive. Do look back at this year's editions for Brookfield News for a fuller perspective.

- Guys and Dolls - another immense production
- Young Enterprise - National Winners (Journey Award) - *Urban Jars*
- Lesotho Race Night - a superb event organised by our Sixth Form Charity Committee, and a resounding success in raising almost two thousand pounds for our planned visit
- BBC Radio 4's 'Any Questions' - the BBC landed at Brookfield for a heady night of debate just before December's General Election
- BPFA Christmas Fair - a standing dish, this time in a new venue of the Sports Hall, but another resounding success from our BPFA
- Legal Apprentice - national winners
- New facilities and website - lockdown has not prevented lots of work continuing around school.

What was your personal highlight of 2019-20?



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD - A YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

Like everything at Brookfield, since March 2020, the Brookfield Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme has been brought to a halt by the coronavirus crisis. When school closed on 20th March the current gold cohort were a week away from setting out on their Gold Practice Expedition. School closures cancelled the expedition season, whilst the imposing of restrictions also affected student's abilities to complete many aspects of the other sections. In response the DofE organisation adapted its programmes and the rules that govern them, and **DofE with A Difference** was launched, allowing for the presentation of a Certificate of Achievement for those who completed all the sections, less the expedition.

In response to this many of our current bronze students have completed individual sections, with a number gaining the new Certificate of Achievement. In addition, three of our Year 13 students from last year's gold cohort have successfully completed their entire Gold Award. This is a significant achievement at the best of times, let alone at the moment, so very well done to them.

For this year's bronze and gold students the expeditions remain incomplete, but it is hoped that we may be able to take advantage of the new regulations to get the expeditions done next year.

At the end of the Summer Term BCS DofE will also be saying goodbye to two titans of the DofE Staff Body: Mr Taylor and Mr Fagan as they retire and move schools respectively.

Mr Taylor was drafted in as an emergency van driver in the summer of 2014 and never looked back, having been on nearly every bronze and gold expedition since! Racking up well over 30 DofE expeditions, his contribution to the success of the programme has been significant. He is a first rate volunteer and will be particularly missed on the big gold expeditions in the Dales and the Lakes.

Mr Fagan has been there since the start, helping out on the first DofE expeditions back in 2007/08; he has supported almost 70 expedition trips. His contribution to DofE and the school is incalculable. In his time at here he has helped literally hundreds of students to complete their expeditions and awards. His enthusiasm and knowledge of the outdoors is second-to-none and he has shared that with every group that he has supervised. He gained his Summer Mountain Leaders award whilst at the school, a vital qualification needed for running the expeditions. He helped start up the gold programme in 2013, enabling our students to gain the award at the highest level. He has been Mr Greenwood's right-hand-man; utterly dependable on the hill, and the person to go to for advice and insight in any matter. He will be missed from BCS DofE. In summary it has been an odd season and not one we would wish to repeat. Hopefully we will be back out on the hills soon.



THE NO DESSERT CHALLENGE

As you may remember from our article in the previous newsletter, work on installing the solar powered irrigation system in the Malealea Teaching Farm continues apace thanks to the enormous generosity of the wider Brookfield community. The solar panels and other equipment required has now reached the teaching farm and the frames are in the process of being erected (pictured).

While we are delighted at the work underway, which will have a significant benefit for the farms long-term viability, we have been saddened to learn of the immediate crisis threatening the people of Lesotho. The government have declared a national emergency due to food shortages caused by drought and the impact of Covid-19.

That's why Brookfield have launched the one-week 'No Dessert Challenge' starting on the 13th July. We are asking all members of the school community to forego their favourite desserts for one week, and then to donate the money saved on their shopping bill to Brookfield's 'No Dessert Challenge' [Just Giving page](#). All money raised will go to fund food parcels to local communities.

To launch the week long challenge, Mr Cameron has produced [this video](#), featuring other members of the school community who'll be taking part in the fundraising effort.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

We've received our wonderful certificate from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award for this year's efforts in serving the local community. Unsurprisingly the total



is slightly down on the 1500 - 1800 hours we would normally rack up, but given the circumstances we've immensely proud of what our students have achieved this year.

A REMINDER OF EXPECTATIONS

As we head towards a new academic year, we thought it useful to remind you of some expectations around student behaviour. Some of these have changed for the new term. For full details, [please see our website](#).

Electronic devices including, mobile phones, smart watches, music speakers etc. are not allowed in school and will be confiscated if seen. If confiscated, a student will be given a same day C4 detention (3-4pm). The electronic device will be returned to the student at the end of the C4 Detention. Repeat offences will result in isolation and parent collection of device.

If a student is required to bring a mobile phone for use after school, then it should be turned off and stored in the student's bag at all times. On request, mobile phones and electronic devices can be handed into Main Reception for safekeeping during the school day.

For reasons of health and safety, jewellery is limited to a small stud in each ear and a watch. Any other form of piercings, for example, lips, eyebrows, noses, tongues, navels etc. are inappropriate and unsafe in a school environment and are therefore not allowed.

Students need an appropriately sized bag to carry their books and equipment. Small, fashion handbags are not suitable. All students should be fully equipped with adequate stationery.

Unidentifiable lost property is located in the main reception. Please could parents ensure that all items of uniform have their child's name written in it.

MOVING UP TO BROOKFIELD

The Y6 transition to Brookfield has certainly been different this year, much of it has been done virtually with lots of new content on the school website for Year 6 students to get a good understanding of what school will be like in September. Year 6 students will now know which form they are in and have watched their form tutors' introduction video. The transition evening for parents was done in a virtual format with a welcome to the school from Mr Hirst and Mrs Dafforne. There is also a virtual tour, videos from our primary ambassadors, and a welcome video from Head of Year, Mr Mason.



The one thing we have really missed is getting a chance to see Year 6 students face to face in school. We will, therefore, be having an additional day on September 4th where the Year 7 team looks forward to welcoming the group in their new uniform, so that they can get to grips with what Brookfield is like, make new friends, meet some teachers and experience some lessons. They will very quickly feel at home with us. Letters regarding the plans for the day have already been sent out to parents.

There are some excellent activities from a variety of curriculum areas on the [website](#) for Y6 students to have a go at over the summer, showing it to their new staff in their first lesson would make a great first impression! Any questions or concerns over the summer holidays should be directed to [Mr Mason](#).

THE END OF AN ERA...

The end of this term sees the retirement of Mr Arnold, a stalwart of the Brookfield Science department and the last remaining teacher who has worked at Brookfield since the school opened in 1991, and indeed at our predecessor school. A very popular and committed Brookfield member of staff, Mr Arnold will be sorely missed.



MAKING THE RIGHT IMPRESSION

Exemplary standards of appearance and dress support Brookfield Community School's "committed to excellence" ethos. All students are expected to adhere to the uniform policy at all times. There have been some alterations to our uniform policy for September, and you are encouraged to review the policy in full, [here](#).

Summary of Main Changes:

- From September 2020, students in Year 7 to Year 11 should wear black or grey socks with their uniform
- From September skirts must be worn with black or grey tights
- Fake nails should not be worn
- Mobile phones should be turned off and placed in bags at all times. If seen, they will be confiscated and returned after the same day C4 detention at 4pm.

Other Rules linked to Appearance, Safety and Hygiene:

- Fake tanning agents should not be used
- Unnatural hair colouring should not be used
- Aerosol deodorants or hairsprays should also not be brought to school.

THINKING OF JOINING THE BPFA?

As you know, the BPFA are a group of parents whose aim is to raise funds to directly benefit our students - and they always need new members! The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 16th September. This may well be held by zoom - [please contact us](#) if you would like an invite or have any other questions. Joining the BPFA is a great way of meeting other parents and finding out more about what's happening in school, and we already have some exciting ideas for events next year. Please do come along and find out more!

SIXTH FORM NEWS

The Sixth Form Team didn't let Covid-19 spoil our Year 12 Induction plans - because the students couldn't come to us, we took the Induction Day to them. Almost 100 videos were uploaded to the Sixth Form section of our website to give our prospective new Year 12s a virtual experience of what being a Brookfield Sixth Form student is like. The videos ranged from messages from their new Form Tutors and current students to tasters from their chosen subjects. We also provided students with a virtual tour of almost 30 Brookfield Enrichment opportunities that will be available to them, our highest and most varied offer yet. We really cannot wait to see our new Year 12 students on the 20th August to finally get them enrolled. We also have a Stepping Up programme planned for their arrival on the 7th September. Check out our Virtual Induction Day for yourself [here](#), and don't forget to follow us on [@BCS_SixthForm](#) to hear about the fabulous activities and achievements our sixth formers are getting up to.

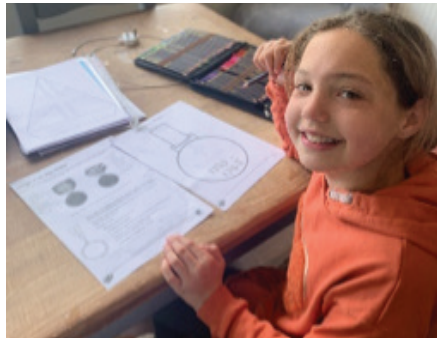
CAREERS NEWS

We are delighted to announce that we have now installed Compass Plus. This is a software package that will enable us to track every individual student's careers and employability activities throughout their time at Brookfield Community School. This will complement the Education to Employment passport that we have already implemented and move us one step further to achieving the highest possible Career Mark award of Platinum, next summer. Check out the [careers section](#) of our [new website](#) to see how Brookfield is ahead of the national game in terms of hitting the Gatsby Benchmarks.

LEARNING SUPPORT PROUD CLOUD

Learning Support have created a 'proud cloud' display which shows all the wonderful home based activities and school work our students have been completing during the period of lockdown.

We have missed the students so much in Learning Support so we have really enjoyed receiving update emails and photos from families. Here are just a few...



Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th July	Final day of term
Thursday 13th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results Day
Thursday 3rd September	INSET Day - Students not in school
Friday 4th September	Year 7 Induction Day No other year groups in school
Monday 7th September	All year groups return to school Year 12 Induction Day
Tuesday 8th September	Years 7 and 12 Photographs (In school)
Tuesday 15th September	Years 8 and 9 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 16th September	Years 10 and 11 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 17th September	Years 12 and 13 Parent Information Evening

