



# Brookfield Community School

# Brookfield News



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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent

In what has been a very busy start to the academic year, I am pleased to inform you that Year 13 students have been completing their UCAS applications; a number of students have already received offers from Universities and seven students have applied to study at either Cambridge or Oxford. Year 12 students have settled well into Brookfield's Sixth Form, evidenced by their impressive 97% attendance to date! Year 11 students have completed their mock GCSE examinations and eagerly await their results in the New Year! Our Year 10 students have settled well into their GCSE studies and our Year 9 students are beginning to consider which subjects to pick in their upcoming GCSE options process. Year 8 students have started to expand their skills, knowledge and understanding and our Year 7 students have impressively transitioned to life at Brookfield Community School.

As we approach the end of term, I hope this newsletter provides you with an update and an insight into the wide variety of trips, visits, sporting activities and other educational events offered at Brookfield Community School.

On behalf of Brookfield Community School, I wish you and your family an enjoyable festive holiday and a Happy New Year!

**Mr Cronin**  
**Acting Headteacher**

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**Remember:** Government legislation states that all young people should be in some form of education until the academic year in which they are 18 (equivalent of Year 13). This could be at school, college, an apprenticeship or a job with training.



## Brookfield Careers

In each issue, find out what Careers based activities our students have been involved in and get a heads-up on what careers events will be coming up soon.

Please note, **Ann Brown**, our School **Careers Advisor**, is available in school every Wednesday. She is based in the Careers Office on the Blue Corridor (opposite the KS3 Office).

Appointments to see her can be made through **Mrs Beards or Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd** or alternatively, students can take advantage of the **Drop-In Service** at breaks and lunchtime.

Our Careers Library is located in the Senior Library and is open to students from:

**Mon-Thurs 8am to 4pm Friday 8am-3.45pm**

Here students will be able to access up to date career pathway information including further and higher education prospectuses, apprenticeship and BTEC information and information about the world of work.

For all other Careers Information, Advice and Guidance please visit the Careers section of our website where you will

find a wealth of advice including information about KS3 Options, Post 16 Options and Post 18 Options as well as key dates, useful contacts and links to other useful websites.

All students have an Employability Passport in their planner. They should be using this to record any events in or out of school that could be used in any future applications or interviews. It also highlights the ten key Employability goals that all students should be aspiring to meet.

## Employability Goals:

- Self-motivated
- Self-assured
- Aspirational
- Informed
- Experienced
- Achieving
- Accountable
- Resilient
- Entrepreneurial
- Co-operative



## Progression Data:

I am delighted to report that our progression data continues to show the vast amount of fantastic progression routes that our students go on to.

## Year 11 Students:

Initial Destinations	Leavers 2013	Leavers 2014	Leavers 2015	Leavers 2016	Leavers 2017
<b>Full Time Education</b>	93.72	93.6	89.4	90.7	89.6
<b>A Levels</b>	71.73	61.7	52.7	62.8	56.3
<b>Other Full Time Education</b>	2.22	0.53	3.2	1.1	32.8
<b>Training</b>	0.52	0.53	1.6	1.1	2.2
<b>Employment</b>	3.66	3.72	7.4	5.5	6.6
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	2.62	0.53	4.3	5.5	6.6
<b>NEET (Not in Education or Employment)</b>	1.16	0.53	0.5	2.7	1.6

The table opposite shows that we have a consistently low NEET figure meaning that virtually no students are not progressing on to a meaningful destination after their Year 11 studies.

## Year 13 Students:

Internal Capture	Leavers 2014	Leavers 2015	Leavers 2016	Leavers 2017	Leavers 2018
<b>Overall H E</b>	73	84.5	89	72	80
<b>Oxbridge</b>	2	5	1	1	1
<b>College</b>	7	0	4	8.6	0
<b>Year 14</b>	3.5	6	2	1.2	1
<b>Apprentice/Internship</b>	6	3.5	3.5	3.6	4
<b>Employment</b>	3.5	1.5	0	5	0
<b>Armed Forces</b>	1.5	0	0.5	0	0
<b>Gap Year</b>	0	0	0	9	0
<b>NEET</b>	1	1.5	0	0.6	1

Again, the table to the left shows that we have a consistently low NEET figure meaning that virtually no students are not progressing on to a meaningful destination after their Year 13 studies. We also have a very positive number of 24% of Brookfield students progressing to Russell Group universities compared to the national average of 12%. Russell Group universities are the top 20 Universities in the country

I will be delivering an assembly to KS3 and KS4 students in January to explain all of the Post 16 pathways that are open to them. We also invite all Y11 students and parents to join us for our Post 16 evening every November and all our Y12 students and parents to join us in June for our Post 18 evening.



## Career Mark Revalidation is Here Again

Following a successful revalidation of Gold Standard Award in Careers two years ago, we will be being assessed again this July for further revalidation. This award is for those educational establishments that provide outstanding Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. We will keep you posted on the outcome. A summary of our previous judgement is:



There is significant good practice at Brookfield School around careers, enterprise and employability at Brookfield Community School. The school has an innovative approach and has recently introduced an employability passport. Learners are encouraged from Y7 to have high aspirations and are introduced to a range of local learning providers and to the full range of learning pathways. They have a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills including Young Enterprise, mock trial competitions as well as many extra-curricular activities and a range of visits, visitors and

activity days with a clear focus on progression and employability. Access to work experience in Y10 is still seen by the school as very important and learners benefit from this as well as further opportunities to access work experience in Y12. The school has a strong commitment to the provision of independent impartial Careers Guidance and works in partnership with a range of providers to ensure their learners are prepared to make successful transitions through learning and into work.'

## Meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks

New Careers guidance was issued in January 2017. The main focus is now on all schools meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks by September 2020. I have plotted our careers provision against the Gatsby benchmarks and am delighted to report that we are already hitting most of the requirements. The key areas where I feel we can still do more is:

- **More students and parent links to Local Market Information**
- **Embedding careers in the curriculum**

As a result, the new Brookfield careers website is being launched that will include many more user friendly links including where to find up to date Local Market Information.

We have already successfully ran six projects, last year linking curriculum subjects to the world of work. The projects were:



### Science All Y7 United Cast Bar

As part of their unit on Oxidation, students were set a challenge by United Cast Bar to prepare a pitch that could be used globally by the company to promote why the materials they use to coat their metals is so good. The winning team were invited to a VIP lunch in the Boardroom and were given a tour of the foundry along with some other goodies.

### Art All Y8 East Moors Partnership

As part of their 'Birds' unit, students were visited by East Moore Partnership and told about the main birds that can be found in the Peak District. The winning images that students produced were displayed in the café at Longshaw Estate and feature on the East Moor's website.

### English Language All Y10 S41 Radio

As part of their Speaking and Listening unit, students revived a talk from S41 DJs about careers in media and radio. They were then challenged to write a speech about what they love and loath about Chesterfield. Their winning speeches were then broadcast on the station.

### Business Studies Y10 GCSE D2N2

Students were given a brief about a small business that was struggling and were asked to write a plan to help them.

### PE Y13 A Level Local Physiotherapist

To help them with their revision, students were given a talk from a one woman local physiotherapy business and were challenged with a real life case study. They had to come up with a support plan for the patient using their knowledge of physiology.

### Health and Social Care Y13 A Level Chatsworth Road Surgery

To help students get their revision notes in order, they were challenged by Chatsworth Surgery to turn their notes on living a healthy lifestyle into patient friendly screens that could be displayed on the TV screens in the waiting room of the practice. The winning screens are being used by the practice.

A link to a short video showcasing the videos can be seen on our new careers website. I am delighted to announce that we are **adding** to these projects this year by also planning the following projects:

Subject	Year group	Business
Maths	Y9	The Army
Textiles	Y10	Ashgate Hospice Shop
Food Tech	Y10	Chesterfield Council
Computer Science	Y12	Cap Gemini

Details are still being confirmed. I will update you in the next newsletter about how they get on.

In addition to this I am working on launching a new Employability Passport for Sep 2019. This will involve students earning bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges for successfully completing careers and employability challenges throughout their key stage. The passport will then form a useful resource and piece of evidence for students to use when making future educational and job applications.

## Brookfield Careers contd

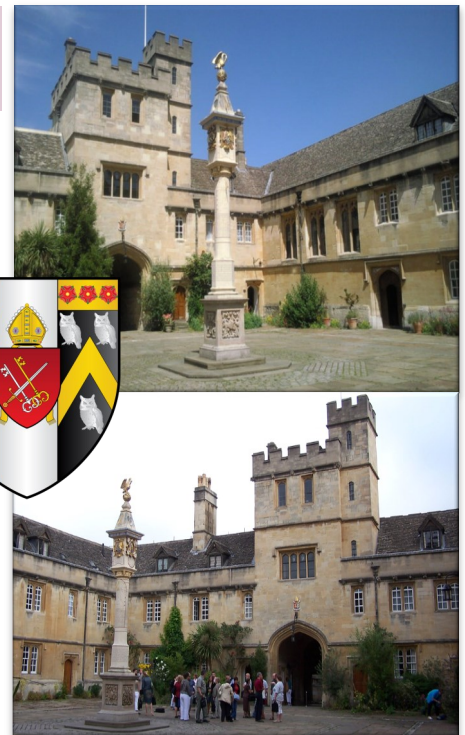
In addition to this we will be having an Employability Goal for one week each half term where subject staff will actively celebrate and reward students in class who display the key employability goal of the week.

## Mock Interviews

All of our Year 11 students have now successfully completed a mock application form and have prepared for and had a mock interview with a real local employer. Although students often find this process nerve wracking, the benefits they gain are tremendous and as always the feedback from the interviewers about our Year 11 students was overwhelmingly positive.

## Visits to Oxford

Once again, some of our Y11 and Y12 students have enjoyed a trip to Corpus Christi College Oxford. On two bright, Autumnal day in October Brookfield students were shown the delights of this historic prestigious university. They had the chance to go inside the college's chapel and libraries as well as eat in the Harry Potter famed dining rooms. The most exciting part for students was the chance to speak to real, current Oxford students and ask questions about what life at university is really like. This was a great opportunity that left students feeling that some of the barriers to Oxbridge applications they had first imagined had been broken down.



## Volunteer it yourself

In September, twenty Year 8 students pulled on their overalls and rolled up their sleeves to work with products provided free of charge from Wickes to revamp our Science Pond area. They were given specialist painting and carpentry training and worked with real employers to build wooden planters. The students showed superb team skills, initiative and practical skills and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

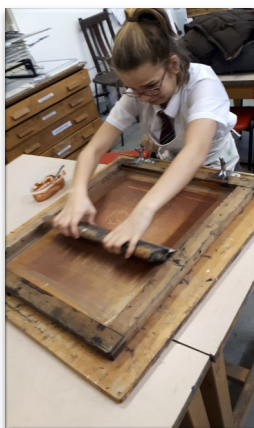
**Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd**

Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5)

## Art and Textiles

This term has been action packed in the Art and Textiles Department:

- GCSE Trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park & the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield;
- Year 12 Graduate Fair in Manchester;
- Art Club engineering our remembrance sculpture;
- Designing and producing the school Christmas Card.



**ART CLUB AT  
WORK ON THE  
SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS  
CARD**

**Mr Fallon**  
Head of Art



**STUDENTS VISITING THE  
HEPWORTH GALLERY AT  
WAKEFIELD**



**YEAR 12 GRADUATE ART FAIR  
IN MANCHESTER**

## PE—Year 7 Football Success

The Year Seven team have made an excellent progress in the local school football competitions. Competition for places has been fierce for both the A and B teams and this has led to good numbers at training sessions. There are some very talented young footballers showing excellent individual skills that combine effectively with a good work ethic and strong team spirit. The A team remains undefeated and the B team have only narrowly lost one game. Brookfield also won the Chesterfield 6 a side tournament and the team will now get to represent Chesterfield at the next round in Derby. All students have been a pleasure to work with.

**Mr Mason**  
PE Department



**B TEAM**



**A TEAM**



**BROOKFIELD NEWS**

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

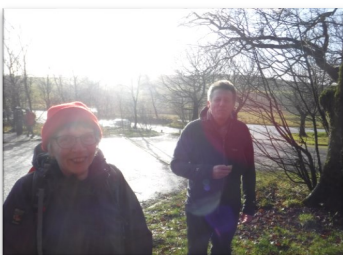
The new academic year began with the previous year's Bronze and Gold students presenting their expedition presentations in the hall to family and friends about their exploits on DofE, thus bringing to a close another very successful DofE year. In all 35 bronze awards were completed, two students were helped to finish Silver awards started at other centres and six students completed their Gold awards; a great level of achievement.

After a slight delay thirty Year 10 students and twenty-one Year 12 students were recruited for the Bronze and Gold awards respectively and planning for the year again began at a pace!

Due to the later start the Bronze day walk took place in December for the first time – the latest point in the year a Brookfield expedition has ever gone out. The Bronze students met for a route on the hills around Castleton, taking in the views from Mam Tor and Lose Hill. Supported by 8 members of staff, the five groups had a great day in challenging winter conditions with cold weather and periods of heavy rain and strong wind – though there was a glorious spell of crisp blue sky in the middle of the day. The teams practised navigation skills alongside team-building and communication. Sadly there has not yet been the time to take the gold teams out, but they will hit the ground running in 2019 with a day walk at some point.

Once again the success of DofE over the last 12-months would not have been possible without the commitment of the staff who volunteer their time to support all the expeditions. Over the last year 25 different members of staff have deployed on expeditions giving up their time, expertise and energy in supporting our students, without them BCS DofE would not happen. Sadly, in the summer, Brookfield said goodbye to many of the staff who helped on our expeditions; hopefully new staff will come forward to take up the challenge and support our students in this fantastic endeavour. There is also continuing thanks to the staff within the school who help to prepare letters, laminated maps, deal with the financing of trips and the purchasing of equipment; their contributions are equally as invaluable.

### MR GREENWOOD BCS DofE Coordinator



## News from the Languages Department

### French Work Experience 2018

Back in October Brookfield Students hosted 8 French students from the Lycée Paul Painlevé, one of our partner schools in Oyonnax. They spent a week in Chesterfield on the return leg of the French Work Experience exchange programme, our students having been in France in May. They worked in some of our local primary Schools: St Mary's, Westfield infants, Brampton School as well as the MFL department at BCS and experienced a taste of English family life where they were able to improve their English language skills. A big thank you to all those students and their families for their hospitality and for helping to make the visit a success!



## Spanish Exchange

In November we welcomed 20 Spanish students from our partner school INS NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA CABEZA in Andújar in the province of Jaén, Southern Spain. They spent 9 days in Chesterfield and were hosted by Brookfield Students from Years 11, 12 and 13. On the first day the Spanish students enjoyed a traditional English breakfast with their partners, served in the Brookfield school canteen, before setting off for Chesterfield where they had a guided tour followed by a reception with the Mayor and Mayoress at the Town Hall. The programme also included visits to Chatsworth, Bakewell and York as well as two days' Work Experience in some of our local Primary Schools: St Mary's, Westfield Infants, Brampton, Old Hall, Brockwell, Spire Juniors, Highfield Hall and Abercrombie.

The aim of such visits is primarily linguistic; to give the students as broad an experience of life in England as possible, to maximise their opportunities to speak English and to improve their English language skills.

Judging by the tears as the Spanish left on a cold Sunday morning, some strong friendships were formed and the Brookfield students are now eagerly awaiting the return visit to Spain in January where, hopefully, they too will be able to practise and improve their Spanish language skills. Once again, a big thank you to all those students and their families for their hospitality and support and for helping to make the visit a success!



## Great European Day of Languages Bake Off

For our annual celebration of The European Day of Languages on 26<sup>th</sup> September the MFL department invited students to bake a cake with a languages theme and the response was amazing!!

There was a wonderful array of cakes showing an immense amount of creativity and imagination and they all looked stunning! A big MERCI/GRACIAS/DANKE to all those students who took part and came along at lunchtime to support the Bake Off competition. You are all winners in our eyes but the prizes eventually went to:

**Year 7: Isabelle Wilmot**  
**Year 8: Henry Holmes-Sykes**  
**Year 9: Henry Husband**



## Good luck to Mary, our German Language Assistant

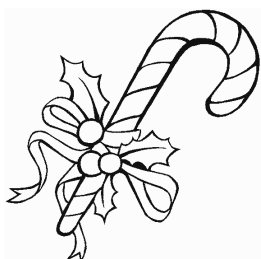
This term we have been lucky enough to have Mary, who is studying to be a teacher at our link university in Trier, working as a volunteer German language assistant in the language department.

She has mainly been working in small groups with students across all year groups helping them practise their German and giving them individual attention to help their pronunciation and improve their confidence in the language. It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to practise their speaking skills with a native speaker.

We are very grateful to Mary for all her hard work and for giving up her time to help our students. We wish her all the best in her future teaching career.



**Good luck to Mary in her future teaching career**



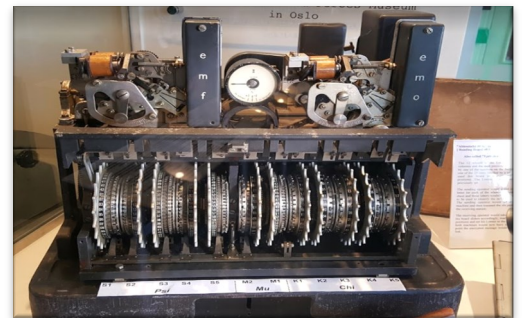
## Computer Science Trip to Bletchley Park

A level and GCSE Computer Science students visited Bletchley Park in early November. The site of the historic code breaking activities in WW2 houses the rebuild of Colossus, the World's first electronic computer and is now home to the National Museum of Computing. After a presentation on codebreaking students observed the process that was undertaken to help break German codes, viewed the running Colossus computer and encountered significant computing artefacts over the years. This in a very practical way demonstrated the effect of Moore's Law over the last 50 years. From hard drives the size of washing machines and memory modules that could not be lifted, the astounding changes in technology we take for granted was brought home.

Every year we learn more about the fascinating events at Bletchley Park that have remained shrouded in secrecy and have denied Britain its place in computer history for so long. For more information go to [www.tnmoc.org](http://www.tnmoc.org).



STUDENTS ON THE VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK 2018



A LORENZ CIPHER MACHINE

## News from the Performing Arts Department

It has been a busy term for Performing Arts, with trips, performances and preparations for this year's show. All year groups have been involved in a range of class work, extra-curricular events and representing Brookfield in our community.

### **The School Musical (6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> March 2018)**

Rehearsals are now well underway for our production of Beauty and the Beast in March. The cast have been busy learning songs and setting the opening. Everyone is sounding really great and it promises to be an amazing show. The set has been designed, costumes ordered and we really can't wait to get going again on our return in January! We yet again have such a talented cast. **Look out for tickets going on sale when we return in January.**

### **Out In The Community**

On Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December a selection of students went to Pinebank Day Centre to entertain their users and spread some festive cheer. Students wowed their audience with numbers from Beauty and The Beast, highlights from our recent Charity Dance Show and some festive carols from the Senior Choir Ensemble.



## Here's a summary of what else has been going on in Performing Arts...

### DRAMA

Wow, what a busy term we have had in the Drama Department! Brookfield students have had a whole range of exciting opportunities this term to really help advance their learning.

#### In the Classroom

A huge congratulations go to Y11, who have now completed the Devised component of their GCSE Drama exams. Their pieces were based on the stimulus of identity and they produced some really thought provoking pieces that used the 2011 Riots and Social Media as themes. Y12 A Level students have also been Devising this term and completed their mock Component 2. They explored Dissociative Identity Disorder in a truly immersive way taking the audience on an experience of how some sufferers may feel when living with this mental illness. The final group of students to present their work this term were the Y10 GCSE Drama class, who performed to a packed studio as they shared their first pieces of Devised Theatre. A range of pieces were presented exploring different ways of utilising physical theatre within their work. They were influenced by Frantic Assembly, DV8 and Complicité. The work was absolutely outstanding and very inspirational. **Well done everyone!**



#### Theatre Trips

Performing Arts staff and students have already been on several theatre trips this term including: 'Shrek The Musical' at Nottingham's Theatre Royal, 'Les Misérables' at Leicester's Curve Theatre and 'Death of A Salesman' at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre. These will go on to help students in their written exams and were all great examples of high quality performances. There are plenty more theatre trips to come in the New Year and all students are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities.

#### Workshops

As well as watching theatre, our A Level students were lucky enough to join with students at St Mary's for a workshop with Splendid Theatre Company. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about different devising approaches as well as developing ideas steamed from Greek Theatre. This was then transferred into their learning when developing ideas for their devised work. Much fun was had by all, definitely an afternoon to remember.

#### Fundraising

The Upper School Theatre Company recently staged a great Murder Mystery evening entitled "*Who Killed The Hotel Manager*". This interactive team event raised over £100 which will go back into supporting students in the Performing Arts at Brookfield. The students worked really hard in their spare time to prepare for the evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone... even if not all teams guessed the right murderer!



## DANCE

As always we have started the year at full speed with clubs for all year groups, with an average participation of 50 students a week. The autumn term is always full of excitement and a packed gym, as students prepare for shows both in school and out. 2019 looks to be just as exciting with performances and trips aplenty! Feel free to join in with the fun of the spring term as we prepare for the 2019 Brookfield Evening of Dance in March.

### Charity Dance Show 2018

This year the Y13 A Level Dance students chose to support Ashgate Hospice care and the Alzheimer's Society with the funds raised from their 80's themed show. Over 50 students across the school performed in the event in pieces ranging from John Lennon's 'Imagine' to Michael Jackson's 'Way You Make Me Feel' as well as the 80's classic 'Agadoo'. As well as organising the choreography, costumes and music the Y13 dancers also organised additional fundraising, including refreshments and a cake sale! With a packed auditorium and plenty of opportunities to give, the show raised £920 which has been shared between the 2 charities. Well done everyone who performed and especially the Y13 A Level Class!

### SSP Secondary Dance Platform

Chesterfield SSP once again invited Brookfield students to perform at the annual dance event at the Winding Wheel on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. This year performers from Y12 A Level Dance were joined by Senior Dance Club, consisting of Y9 and 10 students. While the A Level group presented an examination performance work the spoken word poem "Pass On" by Michael Lee and "Imagine" choreographed by Y13 students, the seniors brought a smile with a Jazzy piece to The Way You Make Me Feel, which had been a favourite at the Charity Dance Show. Both groups were excellent ambassadors for the school and showed the high quality of work produced at Brookfield.



## MUSIC

### Extra-Curricular

As well as peripatetic music lessons, students have all been turning out in force for the reformed Brookfield Choir. Students from all year groups have been raising their voice to develop a seasonal repertoire which has been heard at Open Evenings and the Brookfield Christmas Market.



## Christmas Carol Service

In the last week of term, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Brookfield students sang with gusto and professionalism at St Thomas' Church, Brampton. A moving candlelit procession began the service with the choir leading the congregation as we sang *Once in Royal David's City*, a moment reminiscent of the famous King's Carol Service in Cambridge. The students did the school proud and helped the community feel more than ready for the Christmas festivities ahead. It was lovely to share this time with students, staff, parents and our community neighbours.



## Christmas Community Lunch

We opened our doors to the local community this week by offering a festive feast and carols. 14 members of the local community joined us for a delicious feast of turkey, pigs in blankets and all the trimmings, followed by a yummy Christmas pudding and custard. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were able to get a glimpse of the school during the school-day whilst also being able to mingle with fellow members of the community and members of staff. **We will be holding another Community Lunch in April which will have an Easter theme. More details will be released nearer the time. We hope to see you all there!**

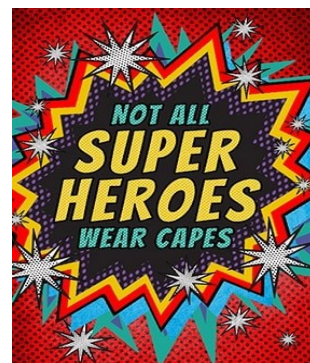
## Foodbank 7R

In the final weeks before Christmas Mrs. Wall, and her tutor group 7R, have been galvanizing the school community to give generously to the Chesterfield Foodbank. Bags and bags of kind donations from students, parents and staff have flooded into school and will be delivered to the foodbank on the final day of term to make sure those who find Christmas a struggle can hopefully have a relaxing festive period.



## Appreciation Week

Saying 'thank you' is a massively powerful tool, especially at Christmas. Students at Brookfield had the opportunity in the final week of the term to show their appreciation to any adult in school. Well over 1000 appreciations were written by students and shared with staff across the school community to say thank you for the support they provide. All of the staff at Brookfield would like to thank our students for their fantastic attitude to learning and we look forward to welcoming them back to school in 2019!



Merry Christmas