



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

I hope you are well at this time and coping during this second period of lockdown. I am really pleased that schools have remained open in this lockdown, so that we can ensure students can continue their education and enjoy all that comes with the routine of attending school.

Our students have adapted well to new routines, such as wearing of face coverings in social areas and their behaviour and maturity is impressive. The move back to subject to bases also seems to be working very well.

A disappointment has been the latest DfE guidance on extra-curricular activities, which limits what schools are able to do outside of the normal school day. This is understandable. We will be ready to get underway with our extra-curricular offer as soon as guidance allows.

I hope you find this latest edition of Brookfield News useful and that it reflects the fact that some normality continues at this time.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher

INSET DAY REMINDER

A reminder that we have an INSET day scheduled on Monday 30th November.

School will be closed to students on this day.



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS ARTS FESTIVAL

In March 2020 we were put into a government enforced lockdown that we thought it would be for a few weeks; it turned out to be five months. Little did we know back then that it would become such a test of human spirit.

Throughout those months people started to turn to creative outlets to spread positivity and these creative outlets helped many people to cope; rainbows, scarecrows, balcony musicals, street songs, theatre online, Zoom dance lessons and V.E. day street parties.

Brookfield has always recognised how important those creative outlets are, and when schools reopened in September performing arts lessons resumed.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions and bubbles we are unable to rehearse our annual school production. However, the Performing Arts and Art Departments have decided to continue spreading the positivity, providing a creative outlet for so many talented youngsters by creating a virtual Christmas celebration.

Our Virtual Christmas Arts Festival will be uploaded to our website in December for families and our local community to enjoy.

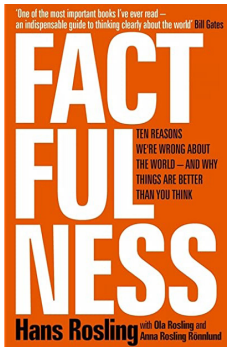
We have a range of students taking part from Year 7 to 13. There will be Christmas songs, an A Level pantomime, dance and drama pieces, special effects makeup galleries, virtual art galleries, a special staff song and readings from our English Department.

The event will be a celebration of work and will hopefully spread the festive spirit. Now, more than ever, we need to support the creative arts and to celebrate each other.

Mrs Ashley, Head of Performing Arts

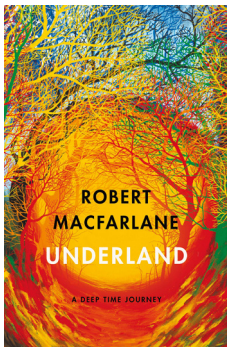
LOCKDOWN MUST READS!

In a bid to liven up your long lockdown winter evenings, staff have recommended a collection of those life-changing books that you simply must read. Enjoy!



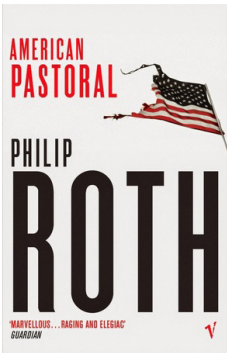
Factfulness by *Hans Rosling*. Recommended by Mrs Cohen.

This book will completely change the way you think; by using facts to break down many of the assumptions we make about the current issues in today's world, it is an interesting and inspiring read!



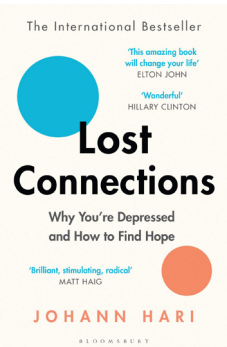
Underland by *Robert Macfarlane*. Recommended by Mr Fallon.

This is a beautiful mix of nature, travel, science, history and art. Macfarlane does not shy away from the big questions, from existential threats to the meaning of existence! His research is thorough, his quest often unexpected but his prose reads like poetry. Certainly not a ripping yarn but definitely a thought-provoking adventure.



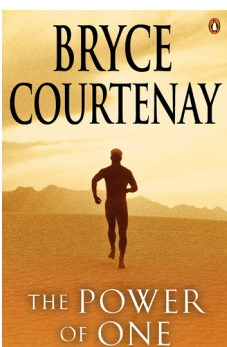
American Pastoral by *Philip Roth*. Recommended by Mr Hirst.

Be in no doubt, Philip Roth is the greatest writer of the 20th century, and American Pastoral is his masterpiece. This book brilliantly plots the life of Swede Levov, from popular school athlete to successful businessman in Newark, New Jersey. A story of personal highs and lows against a backdrop of a dramatically changing American society.



Lost Connections by *Johann Hari*. Recommended by Mr Cliff.

An absolute must read for anyone interested in the causes and solutions to anxiety and depression. After spending most of his life medicating with anti-depressants for his mental health issues, Hari went on a journey of discovery around the world exploring the ways in which people from all walks of life have attempted to understand and overcome their struggles through reconnecting with the world around them.



The Power of One by *Bryce Courtenay*. Recommended by Mrs Ashley.

A work of fiction that absolutely gripped me. It follows the story of Peekay, a white boy growing up in South Africa at the time of Apartheid and his journey to become heavyweight champion of the world. This story consumed me and I spent every spare minute soaking it up in my 20s! I fell in love with the scenery, the characters and their relationships. There are many hard hitting moments as racial inequalities are present which makes the story incredibly emotive. This is a book that sits on my bookshelf of things to pass down to my daughter when she's old enough.

NEWS FROM THE BPFA

Although we are currently unable to meet in person, the BPFA has been very active over Zoom! This term we have held a logo competition, awarded grants and come up with new fundraising ideas.

LOGO COMPETITION

We decided it was time that we had our own logo, so asked the school to invite Key Stage 3 students to design one for us. Mr Swift selected some designs and, as a committee, we selected our favourite - which you can see here. The design is by Grace Beecham in 9B. We love the way it uses the school colours and incorporates our slogan 'Raising funds, enriching lives', but most of all we love that it was designed by a student. Those who made the short-list were given the prize of drawing pencils, whilst Grace will receive an artist's set. The logo was then digitalised by Y13 pupil Tahmeed Khan, who will also receive a prize. Many thanks to all those who took part.



DEPARTMENT GRANTS

Back in September we wrote to all the Heads of Department asking whether they would like to bid for a grant to help support an activity or resources which

were over and above what they would normally buy out of their budget. We are delighted to say that we have been able to give money to buy new table tennis tables for the PE Department, new ebooks for Psychology, beautiful sketch books for the Art Department, books to support participation in the Carnegie award for the English Department and books for the MFL Department to help them build up an MFL section of the main library. This has all been made possible because of the generosity of parents supporting our BPFA fundraising events. Thank you!

FUNDRAISING

We would love it if you could continue supporting the BPFA by using the [easyfundraising app](#). It's very easy and is completely free. You just need to either download the app or add the website to your favourites, choose a cause to support (us!) and then start shopping. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us for free every time you use it. For more information [see here](#), and do spread the word. We have also registered with Amazon Smile, which can be selected through the [easyfundraising app](#). If each parent did all their Christmas shopping online, using this app, we could raise so much money!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

We are planning a 2022 calendar which will feature seasonal photos taken by pupils. We are looking for local businesses to sponsor this (one per month). If you would be able to do this, or know of someone who might like to, please [contact us](#). If you have any other fundraising ideas in these strange times - or would like to become more involved in the BPFA - please [email us](#) and like our [Facebook Page](#). We'd love to hear from you!

SIXTH FORM OPEN DAY

Our Virtual Sixth Form Open Day took place on 16th November. Our website received a huge number of visits as prospective applicants watched videos detailing what our wonderful Sixth Form has to offer, introductions to each subject, information on our Brookfield Enrichment Programme, and much more. Applications for the Sixth Form also opened on the evening, with the deadline being the 11th December. All of the features can still be found [on our website](#), along with the online application form, which can be found [here](#).





BROOKFIELD REMEMBERS

Students and staff at Brookfield paused on Wednesday 11th November to remember those who have served and those we have lost in conflict. Organised once again by Mr Greenwood, students watched virtual assemblies teaching them the value of remembrance, and why we do it. To commemorate 75 years since the end of the Second World War, students also saw tributes to staff members' relatives who were involved in the conflict, before participating in a two-minute silence.

POST-16 OPTIONS

For Year 11 students thinking of applying for an apprenticeship or college, please see the [Careers section of our website](#) where you will find lots of information and support on our [Virtual Post 16 Options Event](#).

Our Careers Advisor, Anne Brown, is in school every Wednesday to help students one to one. If a student would like an appointment with her they should ask their Form Tutor. Anne will also be running workshops to help students apply for apprenticeships from January. We will continue to post news of any opportunities, virtual workshops or careers and apprenticeship fairs to the 'notices' section of [Show My Homework](#).

INTER-FORM CROSS COUNTRY

Over two weeks from Monday 2nd November until Friday 13th November, all Key Stage 3 students at Brookfield participated in the 2020 KS3 Inter-form Cross Country Championships. Students competed on a course of between 1.5 and 3.5km around the school's playing fields during their PE lessons. The time that they achieved during each run contributed to the points total of each form, to give an overall winning form for each year group. It was great to see so many students participating, representing their form groups and trying their best. Congratulations to 7I, 8B and 9O who were the winning forms from their year groups.

YEAR 7 RESULTS				
POSITION	FORM	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1	7I	675	460	1135
2	7B	655	470	1125
3	7K	530	520	1050
4	7O	535	410	945

YEAR 8 RESULTS				
POSITION	FORM	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1	8B	570	330	900
2	8F	405	435	840
3	8I	415	360	775
4	8K	425	300	725

YEAR 9 RESULTS				
POSITION	FORM	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1	9O	500	425	925
2	9B	560	250	810
3	9R	270	395	665
4	9I	320	340	660



RECOVERY CURRICULUM

The return to school in September was daunting for some students, having had months without the formal structure of the school day; inevitably this may have caused some concerns about the loss of learning that may have occurred. From September, all departments have been working hard, using a variety of formative assessments, quizzes and retrieval activities to establish where last year's lockdown has resulted in any gaps in learning. Teachers have adapted their curriculum plans to ensure that key knowledge, essential for future learning, is embedded. Students can also engage in activities at home to help them further enhance their learning.

Strategies to support your child at home:

1. Read, read and read. Encourage your child to read each day. Listening to your child read, and reading to them are both extremely powerful in aiding learning in all subjects. Students at Brookfield are now engaging in daily D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) sessions; information regarding D.E.A.R. and recommended reading lists can be found [here](#).
2. The [BBC Bitesize webpage](#) has extensive information, resources and tasks to support and enhance young people's studies in Key Stage 3 & 4. You can also find extensive revision activities for GCSE and A Levels at the [Seneca webpage](#).
3. Ask your child questions about their day, focusing on what they have learnt. Research has shown that if we repeatedly retrieve information after it has been taught, then we are more likely to remember it long term. 'What did you learn in Science today?'; 'What were the key facts that you learnt in History?'
4. Encourage your child to teach you something that they have learnt. Teaching is one of the best ways to ensure long-term learning because to teach a topic, concept, process requires thorough knowledge. If your child informs you that they learnt about the water cycle in Geography ask them to explain it to you in full - they may need a little time revising it first.
5. Encourage your child to make flash cards and then test them on their knowledge. There are many online apps that can be used for this, such as AnkiApp, AnkiDroid and Quizlet. It is important that your child regularly tests themselves and particularly focuses on the facts they are uncertain about.
6. There are also a variety of on-line quizzing apps that have quizzes and activities already available for your child to access. These include Quizizz, Kahoot and Quizlet.

PRESENTATION EXPECTATIONS

Good presentation of work is a priority for both staff and students. It is reflected through our core value of being Ambitious:

- Be aspirational and aim high
- Take pride in your work and your environment
- Be an independent learner

Good presentation of work is important in order to encourage students to:

- Be proud of their achievements, by doing their best work and presenting it well
- Value every lesson
- Do their best quality work in order to value their own learning
- Persevere with work until it is completed and aesthetically pleasing.

At Brookfield we have clear expectations regarding the presentation of students work:

- All work should have an underlined title and date
 - Writing should be in black or blue
 - DIRT work should be labelled 'DIRT' and written in green
 - Homework should be clearly labelled
 - A pencil should be used for any diagrams
 - Sheets should be stuck into books
 - Where appropriate a ruler should be used (when drawing graphs etc.)
 - Mistakes should be crossed out with a single line
 - There should be no graffiti either on or in books.
- Parents and guardians can support their child to foster the highest possible standard of presentation and pride in their work by ensuring that:
- Homework is completed neatly
 - Books are stored in a safe and appropriate place at home
 - Students have a suitably sized bag to avoid work being damaged in transit between school and home
 - Students are correctly equipped for school each day.

A REMINDER ABOUT UNIFORM: V NECK JUMPER

A reminder that this year, classrooms will be cooler than normal as we maintain good ventilation to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

With colder months ahead, we recommend that all students wear the official Brookfield Community School jumper or a plain black V-neck jumper under their blazer to ensure that they do not become too cold in classrooms. Students may also wear a white T-shirt or base-layer under their white shirt to provide additional warmth.



CHECKING UNDERSTANDING

All Key Stage 3 & 4 students will receive an individual mini-whiteboard, pen and eraser this term in a handy plastic wallet. Teachers have received training recently on effective questioning strategies, including a consistent approach for using mini-whiteboard. They will implement the use of these to check students' understanding and facilitate deeper thinking and learning. This form of feedback is particularly useful at the moment, as teachers are minimising their movement around the class and predominantly teaching from the front of the classroom.

EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE

During the first half term of this academic year whole school attendance was 95.3%. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic, this should be commended as it is significantly above the current average for secondary schools in England. This illustrates how committed to excellence our wonderful students are!

Particular praise should be given to all students who managed to achieve 100% attendance in the first half term - if you look closely you may spot their names below! All students with 100% attendance will be receiving a certificate that they should save as a record of achievement. Congratulations and well done to all of our students.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 16th November	Sixth Form Virtual Open Day - 6pm
Wednesday 18th November	Year 13 Parents' Evening - Student Consultations
Monday 30th November	INSET Day - School Closed to Students
7th - 11th December	Christmas Jumper Week
Thursday 10th December	Year 11 Parents' Evening (TBC)
Friday 11th December	Sixth Form Applications Close
Friday 11th December	Parent Forum (Virtual) - Detail to Follow
Tuesday 15th December	Year 7 Flu Vaccinations
Friday 18th December 2020	Final Day of Autumn Term
Monday 4th January 2021	Spring Term Begins