



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

After a break in normal newsletter service due to the lockdown, I am delighted to bring you this edition with an update on what has been happening in school, and to outline some of our plans for the term ahead. Despite the period of lockdown, work in school has been able to continue almost uninterrupted.

School has been open every day since lockdown started on 23rd March – more than 3 months ago. This has included Easter and May holiday periods, as well as Bank Holidays, where we have remained open for some groups of students, such as those whose parents are key workers. We have received a great many messages of thanks and support from families regarding the provision that has been made in terms of remote learning and the support of form tutors. These are always shared with all our staff and have been enormously important to us all. I am very grateful for the support that we have received from parents during this time; we could not have achieved what we have without it – thank you.

And so to the next phase of re-opening. During the next 4 weeks we are arranging face-to-face meetings for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 with their form tutor.

I hope you find our first summer term newsletter informative.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



SCHOOL WEBSITE

One improvement that has been able to go ahead despite closure has been the development of our school website. You have hopefully by now seen the new website, which is a significant improvement on its predecessor. We are looking forward to updating the site - along with our social media - on a regular basis to keep you posted of what is happening in school. You can visit our new website by clicking the image above. All previous Newsletters can be accessed [here](#).

SCHOOL BUILDING WORKS

Schools within multi-academy trusts can access Schools Condition Allocation (SCA). Such funding is designed to improve the conditions and facilities of school buildings. Through Redhill Academy Trust, this year Brookfield has been allocated over £250,000 in SCA funding, which will be used for important improvements. A breakdown of what this fund will be spent on is below:

- Science Block: Roof replacement including sky-lights
- Top Floor: Full refurbishment of 10 classrooms – lighting, flooring, heating, furniture
- Science Block, Room B6: Floor to be repaired and floor relaid
- Drama/Gym Area: Replacement boilers and boiler pumps

This work will have a significant impact on facilities and will improve the learning and working environment for students and staff. All of these works are underway and will be completed by September. In addition to these SCA projects, there is an extensive programme of 'in-house' works.

YEARS 10 AND 12 RETURN

We were pleased to welcome our Year 10 and Year 12 students as they returned to school last week. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity for the students to be re-introduced into their learning, whilst prioritising their safety and that of our staff. Extensive planning has taken place to ensure that social distancing is able to be maintained throughout the school, with 2 metre markings indicated and classrooms arranged for a maximum of 15 students. By the end of the term the students will have had the opportunity to experience all of their GCSE / A Level subjects. The response from students and families has been extremely positive, with 85% of Year 10s and Year 12s returning to school. All the work delivered in these sessions is also uploaded onto Show My Homework for those students who are unable to attend.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

We are currently drawing up plans as to how best we can support students when school returns in September, especially those current Year 10 and 12 students who sit exams next summer.

A HELPING HAND

At the end of March, Brookfield Community School donated over 300 goggles, masks and gloves to Chesterfield Royal Hospital, and several boxes of sanitary products to Chesterfield Foodbank.



CAREERS NEWS

We have been working hard behind the scenes to continue to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they confirm plans for their next steps. I am pleased to announce that the majority of our students have now been accepted on to a Post 16 or Post 18 programme. Our Careers Advisor Mrs Brown is on hand for any students who still need our help. Please do not hesitate to contact **Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd** for further assistance.

Due to lockdown, the Y10 and Y12 Work Experience was unable to take place as planned, however, we have been providing lots of virtual opportunities on Show My Homework for students to engage with. These include free webinars about how to perform well in interviews and how to create the perfect CV, careers challenges, and access to a week's worth of work related studies for students to dip in and out of.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Urban Jars, who were one of our Y12 Young Enterprise teams, came within a whisker of winning the National Final after delivering an outstanding presentation and making a profit of over £600. The judges were hugely impressed with the student's submissions and the effort they had made to complete these entries – particularly in these difficult circumstances. In these unprecedented times, the students have shown real resilience, adaptability and strength to continue moving forward with their business ideas. A huge congratulations to all involved – a real success and winners in our eyes!



STAND UP FOR ASHGATE HOSPICE

Cerys Ashby has been featured in the Derbyshire Times thanks to her fundraising efforts for Ashgate Hospicecare. Cerys has written 'Stand Up', a song dedicated to the hard work of NHS workers, key workers, and staff at Ashgate Hospice throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Putting her GCSE Music skills to excellent use, the song was first shared on Facebook, garnering nearly 9000 views before it made the move to the major music streaming and purchasing sites.

As a school we are immensely proud of Cerys' initiative, and the creativity that she has shown in writing and performing her song.

You can read the Derbyshire Times article [here](#), and listen to the song on Youtube, [here](#). We would encourage everyone to contribute to the cause if they can - 'Stand Up', is now available on Amazon Music, Spotify, and Apple Music for download, and with funds raised going to Ashgate Hospice.

LITERACY IN THE CURRICULUM

The next academic year offers an exciting opportunity to refocus our attention, as a school community, on the core skills of reading, writing, speaking & listening. As the influential educationalist Geoff Barton stated, 'The word-rich get richer while the word-poor get poorer' and it is this gap that we are committed to addressing.

The initial plans from September are:

- The appointment of a new Learning Resource Manager, Marie Arrowsmith, who will be taking on responsibility for planning and overseeing the organisation and management of the library and maintaining a high level of resource awareness relating to relevant courses & subject areas.
- Refurbishment of the library to provide a stimulating and inviting environment that is conducive to high quality learning.
- The introduction of the 'Accelerated Reader' programme, aimed at Year 7.
- The introduction of Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), a whole-school initiative where at a coordinated time each day, everyone stops and reads for fifteen minutes. It is a shared experience and gets people talking about books and reading.

'While good readers gain new skills very rapidly, and quickly move from learning to read to reading to learn, poor readers become increasingly frustrated with the act of reading, and try to avoid reading where possible' (Daniel Rigney). We look forward to investing time and energy to support these initiatives as we begin this journey together as a whole school community.

ARTISTIC TALENT AT BROOKFIELD



Year 12 student, Elle Koziupa, has recently completed this oil painting of a fellow student (left). The size of the image does not do this justice, but you will agree this is a stunning piece of work. Well done, Elle!

Another real accolade and a reminder of the talent we have here at Brookfield – this time in the shape of our Head of Art. Mr Fallon has been invited to be involved with a national project called 'Portraits for NHS Heroes'. This involves hundreds of

artists. All of the artists involved have been paired with an NHS worker and are in the process of painting a free portrait by way of thanks and celebration. You can see the BBC report [here](#). Mr Fallon states: 'I recently put the finishing touches to my portrait of NHS hero Dan Wright, who is a neurosurgeon from Oxfordshire. If you use social media and search [#portraitsfnsheroes](#) you will find hundreds, if not thousands of portraits - the project has really taken off.' The image (below) speaks for itself. Congratulations, Mr Fallon!

When all the paintings are completed the full collection will be put on public display. We are pleased to announce that before it joins the full collection of works, Mr Fallon's painting will be proudly on display in our reception area during the autumn term.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN ENGLISH?

Lockdown has proved to be no barrier for the English staff who, with characteristic creativity and ingenuity, have participated in the reinvention of the educational landscape. Who would have thought that, amidst our shy and retiring team, we have the makings of our very own Shakespeare theatrical company? The usually modest Mr Hopkins has produced, directed and starred in a sequence of short films, working his magic in a variety of scintillating Shakespearean roles. These masterpieces have been published on Youtube for the perusal of our eager Y8s & Y9s and been met with a relentless stream of accolades (why not check them out, [here](#)).

Such genius could never have been realised without the steadfast support of the English team who have also shone brightly in many supporting roles. Praise has to go to the magnanimous Mr Davey, who has proven an equal counterpart to Mr Hopkins as a truly majestic Macbeth, to Mrs Cooper for her mesmerising portrayal of Lady Macbeth and to Mrs Shaw for the radical, left-field incarnation of 'Gaz Murman'.

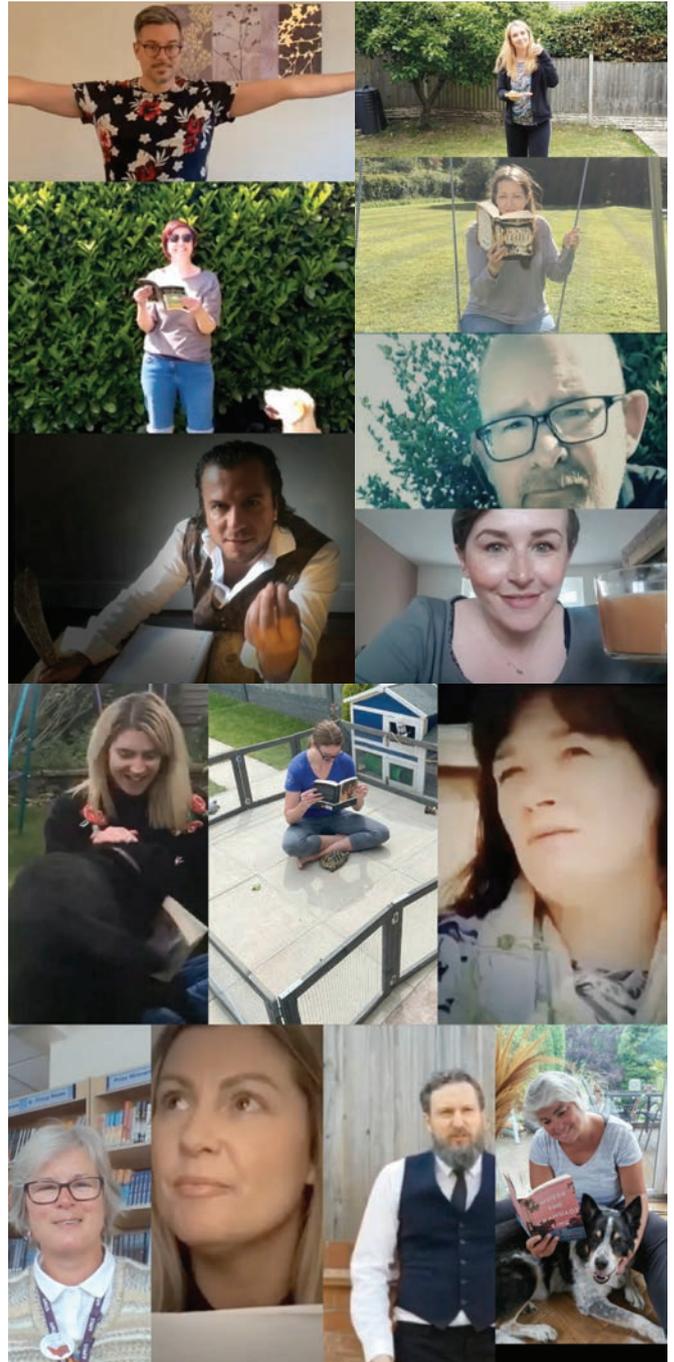
The directorial bug swept like wild-fire through the Department, alighting Mrs Earl's creativity. Within a week, after frantic editing and splicing and the cooperation of the English staff, the next video went live on Youtube – an elegantly sequenced montage of book recommendations for our students, skilfully lip-synced within an inch of its life, to the inspiring anthem of Pharrell William's, 'Happy'.

After such animated artistic output, we pause to recognise the quieter, slow-burning creative energy that has lit the way during these, sometimes, dark periods. Mrs Shaw has kept the Creative Writing Club flag flying high, providing a safe arena for our students to cultivate their own creative voice. This has been seamlessly combined with Ms Henson's weekly Book Club to provide an enriching literary symbiosis.

Mr Frost has, as usual, come late to the table, but spare a thought for his 'Reading Aloud' project that pales into insignificance alongside the achievements of his colleagues. Each day a video is uploaded to Youtube of a different, charismatic teacher reading the next instalment of a chosen novel. To escape from the psychological strangle-hold of Lady Macbeth, Mrs Cooper has used her downtime to keep the English Instagram page alive and well. However, 'Macbeth' is never far from her thoughts and she informs me that key quotations, links to revision sites, links to audio-visual materials are all readily available and easy to access for those keen Y10s who just can't get enough of the Bard.

Now, are we exhausted? Have we squeezed out every last drop of creativity? Have we traversed every possible avenue, searching for the holy-grail that is virtual student-engagement. No, never can it be! I will leave you with just one final example that illuminates how our cunning capacity as educators to connect with our cohorts will never be curtailed. Mr Davey typifies our continuing commitment to the cause. This man has, in his own garden, grown herbs and vegetables, spawned tadpoles and lovingly reared them as his own. Not only this, but in an act of nifty anthropomorphism, he has named his yield after the students in his A Level class. Not only this, but each week, each student receives an image of their namesake in order to catalogue their journey in the life-cycle. This, my friends, leaves me speechless.

Lockdown has proved to be no barrier for the English staff. We hope you have enjoyed the show!





BITTER-SWEET TRIUMPHS

The first year of Project Lesotho has been a real mixture of triumphs and Covid-19 related disappointments. We were very sad to postpone the trip for our Year 12 students that was scheduled for July of this year, but at the same time, we couldn't be prouder of the £3,500 that was raised in a mere six months and despite several fundraising events calendared for the summer term having to be cancelled. That huge amount is a tribute to the hard work of the students involved and to the generosity of the wider school community.

As such, it was very bitter-sweet to receive the update that trenching work has started at the teaching farm in Malealea, Lesotho that the project has paired with. The effect of drought and lockdown has been devastating for Lesotho and a national emergency has been declared due to the food shortage in the country. That's why all of Brookfield's fundraising has been used to urgently replace the dried up bore hole on the teaching farm with a submersible pump to collect spring waters and solar pumps for irrigation. This work is critical in making sure the farm remains viable and able to keep the local community fed. At the same time, it was bitter-sweet because we really wish the students of the Lesotho team could have been out in Malealea lending a hand with the work and seeing the results of their efforts first hand.

Even with the help that we have been able to provide, there is still a great deal more that can be done and we are determined to carry the project forward, hopefully sending out this year's Lesotho team and a new set of incoming Year 12s in Summer 2021. This will allow us to continue to offer support to local organisations during a difficult time as well as providing our students with a unique and potentially life-changing chance to experience other cultures and ways of life.

STUDENT WORK AND RECOGNITION

Over the past 3 months, staff have been sharing examples of student work that they have received through remote learning. There has been an enormous amount of fantastic work from Brookfield students. We have also had two cycles of 'student recognition', where staff have identified students who have really shone in their efforts, and these have been acknowledged through letters home from the Headteacher.

NEW SCHOOL DAY FORMAT

From September 2020 the school day format is changing. Please note, the student start time and end time remains unchanged. The school day format will become:

Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Tutor Time	Lunch Time	Period 4	Period 5
08:30am to 09:30am	09:30am to 10:30am	10:30am to 10:50am	10:50am to 11:50am	11:50am to 12:15pm	12:15pm to 12:55pm	12:55pm to 13:55pm	13:55pm to 14:55pm

In summary:

- Period 1 will begin at 08:30
- Tutor time will take place after period 3
- Tutor time has been increased from 20 to 25 minutes
- Tutor time will incorporate a detailed personal development programme of study (2 days a week)
- Lunch time will be 40 minutes long (currently 45 minutes).

SIXTH FORM NEWS

We are incredibly proud of the resilience and commitment of all our Year 12 and Year 13 students. Throughout these unprecedented times, we have been incredibly impressed by the hard work and kindness to others that students have shown, including Year 13 students volunteering to use their notes to support Year 12 students. It is acts like these that make the community here at Brookfield so special.

Whilst we have not yet had chance to officially say goodbye to Year 13, we are still planning to do this as soon as it is safe to do so and will let you know more about this once the details are finalised.

As well as saying goodbye to Year 13, at the same time we are gearing up to welcoming our new Year 12 students with our Virtual Induction Day on the 29th June. I am proud to announce that this year we have 31 Brookfield Enrichment projects on offer - the highest number yet. These include a vast range of opportunities, some linked with local employers such as United Cast Bar, S40 Magazine and Westfield Primary School.

SCHOOL WORKS

The Site Team have done a terrific job around the site during lockdown, making repairs and preparing areas for summer works. One job that has required attention for some time is the tidying and renovation of the pond, which is now complete. We're sure you'll agree that it is quite a transformation.



Before / After

PRIMARY TRANSITION UPDATE

We have recently sent out letters to all our new families explaining our revised Year 6 Transition and Induction process. The transition process is very much still happening, although in a more virtual sense this year. This is in line with national guidance set out by the Government.

Please look out for the following updates, available on our Brookfield website:

- A series of videos introducing Year 6 students to Brookfield. These will include getting to know the school day, what are our expectations of students, uniform details etc.
- An introduction from key members of the transition team and an introduction to departments explaining what work is likely to be covered in Year 7 and an introduction to the teaching staff themselves.
- A link to our twitter page @bcs_transition that will bring you additional information about transition.
- An opportunity to ask questions using our new transition email address: Y6questions@brookfield-school.net
- Details of our virtual Primary Induction Evening will be available on our website and on twitter. This will feature a presentation welcoming students and parents to Brookfield. We will include details of a Year 6 transition day planned for September where students will have a chance to come in to school and meet their form tutor and experience assemblies, lunchtime and some lessons throughout the day.
- After further discussions with our uniform provider Gogna, it has been decided that school uniform will need to be purchased online for this year only.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to all those students who have completed their Year 6 'This is Me' information sheet. We are really enjoying reading these and getting to know our Year 6s a little better. If you haven't been able to send your sheet in yet please feel free to drop them in to reception.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 29th June	Year 12 Virtual Induction
Thursday 9th July	Year 9 Review Meetings
Monday 13th July	Year 8 Review Meetings
Thursday 16th July	Year 7 Review Meetings
Friday 20th July	Final day of term
Thursday 13th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results Day

