

## The change of seasons.

This term was surreal - whilst making the decision to close the school because of snow I was surrounded by adults dressed as dementors, wizards and the Golden Snitch from Harry Potter! Even in the midst of extreme weather events, learning and a love of learning was celebrated.

My thanks do go out to the whole school community for the supportive and sensible stance taken during these extreme weather events. As well as the safety of the students and staff on site, we have to consider the ability of everyone to get to and from school safely and this was understood by all. Thankfully as I write this the sun has broken through the clouds and I can see Spring daffodils tentatively peeping out.

Spring is a time for optimism, possibility and new beginnings - a perfect time to say how excited we are to welcome our families for next year. It is always such an exciting time to see who joins us in September and the significant number of siblings is delightful to see. The community feel and family support given to Broadoak is always humbling and always galvanises all the team to do their very best.

## Be Excellent!

Students will be seeing exemplars of excellent work appearing around the college and will be hearing the phrase 'Be Excellent' a lot more. This is to inspire them to be the very best they can be and to see what is possible in their subjects. However, we are also incredibly keen for all our young people to be as excellent as they can be in terms of attendance, attitude, approach and demeanour. Whilst we ask this of them, we are working hard as a staff body on the 'Be Excellent' approach to planning, teaching, leading and supporting. It's an exciting time for us all as we try to live and breathe the personal best qualities that Broadoak is founded on.

## Say Hello Wave Goodbye

We welcome to the Broadoak family Mrs K Brooks who rejoins us in the Maths Department as our new key stage three Maths co-ordinator, Mrs Melissa Croker who has taken the reins as our new School Business Manager and Mrs K Fiddian who starts as our new Deputy Headteacher looking at curriculum and assessment matters. Within the team we say huge congratulations to Miss S Evans and Miss F Nicholson who are now Directors of Learning supporting the development of middle leadership plus teaching and learning.

We are saying good bye to Mrs A Neal from the library and Mrs E Longley from Finance both of whom have been fabulous in their roles and we wish them well in their new adventures. We also say "Good Luck" to Mrs Hall as she goes on Maternity Leave.

## Headteacher surgery

Please find below dates and times that parents can pop in to discuss any concerns they may have or just to touch base about their son/daughter.

- $3.30-5.00$ pm Monday $4^{\text {th }}$ May 2018
- $3.30-5.00$ pm Monday $25^{\text {th }}$ June 2018

In order that we can ensure sufficient time is available please email Ms Docherty to book a time at fd@broadoak.n-somerset.sch.uk

Kindest wishes,
Ms K McGillycuddy, Headteacher


At the start of term, the English Department hosted the "Festival of Literature" week to celebrate reading.

The theme for the week was "Harry Potter" and the students and staff got involved with a range of activities to promote reading for pleasure. We had a Harry Potter themes bake off. We had some amazing entries, including some sortinghat cupcakes, but the outstanding winner was created by Year 9 students, Elen and Beth. They created an edible "Monster Book of Monsters" cake. It was terrifying, but wonderfu!

As the week continued, we had a variety of activities for students to get involved in. In Drama, there were spellcasting classes. We also had a whole school read-on, where students had the chance to read the opening of Harry Potter across the day. There were also plenty of Harry Potter badges given out to students.

In English lessons Year 7, 8 and 9 completed a writing challenge to describe a magical scene. Some beautiful pieces of work were produced. There was also an author visit from Matt Dickenson who spoke to Year 7 and 8 , as well as signing some books. All students were given a $£ 1$ world book day token too.


Despite the snow, "World Book Day" went ahead and lots of staff dressed up to celebrate. We had an array of characters, including Harry himself, a very beautiful golden snitch and Mad Eye Moody was even seen roaming the corridors. A particularly scary Death Eater kept everyone in order and rumours of Moaning Myrtle escaping her bathroom were rife.

On World Book Day, we also saw the return of the hugely popular "Broadoak Book Give Away" and hundreds of students across the school were given mystery books as prizes, rewards and some were lucky enough to be found hidden around the school by keeneyed students.


Sadly, the snow delayed our trip to the Harry Potter studios, but this will be rearranged and we look forward to taking the students as the weather improves.

It was lovely to see so many students and staff involved in the week long celebrations to raise the profile of the importance of reading. We have seen Harry Potter books flying off the shelves in the LRC, so you'll need to get in there quickly if you want to get one!




This was made even more powerful by an evening ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, which is performed every night - even though it was very cold, all students agreed that it was worth it.

On Sunday, we visited the Somme. Starting at Lochnagar Crater, moving on to the outstanding Thiepval Memorial and finally Newfoundland Park where we had the opportunity to see real preserved trenches on a tour from a Canadian native. The bitterly cold conditions really made us all think about how difficult it would have been to be a soldier between 1914 and 1918, this was compounded when our tour guide read us a Wilfred Owen poem entitled 'Exposure' on the way home.

All students were well behaved, and relished the opportunity to be able to find out more about the First World War.

## "AMAZING WORK FROM THE YEAR 11 GCSE STUDENTS" BY MISS BAXTER-HUNTER



Pictured above - Tom finding his Great Great Great Grandfather

"Year 11 Textiles GCSE have completed a range of fantastic products this year.

The design briefs allowed students to explore fashion or decorative products. The fashion brief was to create a garment inspired by the 1960's styles and trends.

The decorative product brief was to
 create an accessory or product for a child in the home. The have worked very hard, been very creative and used a wide range of techniques.

Alongside their fantastic products they've produced a detailed portfolio of working, taking them through the design process. They researched, designed and developed their ideas and construction
 methods to help produce their products.


They should be very proud of themselves! There will be an end of year summer show where the work from Creative Arts students will be exhibited, so come and have a look at them in detail then.

Well done girls, I am one very proud teacher!"


Three of our talented students have successfully had their poems published in "The Young Writers Poetry Anthology".

Our students had the opportunity to write about a truth or dare. Each of them sharing their passions and dreams by writing exciting poetry which challenges the reader.

We are extremely proud and would like to congratulate, Hannah Downward, Amelia Groom and Alan Sibi.

## BROADOAK BOOK GIVEAWAY



The Broadoak Book Give Away returned this term with great success. As you may know, we deeply value reading here at Broadoak and are keen to enrich every students' reading experience. World Book Day saw the launch of the second Broadoak Book Giveaway. Over 150 books were given out across the whole school as tutor prizes. So far this year, the giveaway has enabled over 500 students to receive a book to open, read, treasure, keep and most importantly enjoy.



## WESTON COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AWARDS 2018

Weston College has celebrated the successes and accomplishments of its students at a glamorous awards ceremony at the Winter Gardens Pavilion. The annual Celebration of Success recognises the students who have gone above and beyond in their studies and have achieved results greater than their own expectations. This year's Schools Link award for Motor Vehicle was awarded to Broadoak's Year 11 Ethan Tuck. Ethan attends Weston College for one afternoon a week and has gained a great deal of knowledge from this. The College Link Programme offers a select group of Key Stage 4 students the opportunity to gain qualifications in practical courses that are designed to allow them to experience college life in preparation for post-16.


YEAR 10 DRAMA STUDENTS VISIT WESTON PLAYHOUSE

Year 10 GCSE Drama went to the Weston
Playhouse theatre to see the
excellent touring production of 'Blood Brothers'.


There were tears shed, shocks experienced and an emotional journey travelled together. We will now be studying this play in greater detail to support them with their written exam, moving forward to their PPE's and beyond.


'We are pleased to announce that Year 8 students raised a total of £399.31 for their chosen charity Wateraid. Year 7 students are taking on the baton this week and are hoping to raise a similar amount. A representative came to speak to Lower School students last week to inform them of how their money will be used. Well done to all!'

## BROADOAK PRODUCTION OF "ALICE"

Tickets go on sale for 'Alice', our KS3 production from 23rd March- adults $£ 5$, concessions $£ 3$.

Please come along...the Broadoak students never fail in putting on a fantastic performance!

## YEAR 7 AND 8 CHARITY WEEKS

As part of the Year 8 Charity Week, students took part in a water walk.

Each tutor group walked for 12 and a half minutes carrying bottles of water on their heads, totalling 75 minutes for the whole year group. This represents the average time a child in Africa has to walk to collect water each day; a distance of approximately 6 kilometres.

"READY STEADY READ"


This week we have launched the Usbourne sponsored 'Ready Steady Read' initiative with the whole of Year 8. The sponsored read has been setup to inspire a lifelong passion of reading for pleasure both at home and in school. Each student has been given a sponsorship form and will need to hand in their money by Monday 23rd April. We are aiming for a grand total of 2000 minutes of reading across Year 8 in this time. There will be prizes for the tutor group with the most amount of minutes and money raised. All money raised will go towards purchasing news books to be used as prizes, giveaways and for the LRC. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.


## NORTH SOMERSET DANCE FESTIVAL

On Tuesday 20th March, 10 Broadoak students, Lottie Dadds, Kylie Cao, Agata Sudol, Kacie Carr, Pheonix Cottam, Sienna Cottam, Ellie Keele, Emma Donoghue, Abbie Delafield and Alisha BrinkleyNottingham performed in the "North Somerset Dance Festival 2018" and performed 'Chandellier' and 'What about us?'

With over 1000 students participating over the whole event, the girls carried out an incredible performance of extremely high quality. They worked unbelievably hard in rehearsals leading up to the event displaying a slick routine. Agata Sudol was asked, as
 the oldest dancer, to be interviewed along with the youngest dancer in front of the audience, she gave an excellent presentation, a very articulate speaker. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the phenomenal talent we have at Broadoak.

Well done to all the dancers and the staff who worked so hard to make this a huge success!

"On the morning of Wednesday $21^{\text {st }}$ March 2018, we all met at Weston train station with Miss Quan and Mr Neat. We all got on the train and changed at Taunton station to travel to our destination, Exeter University. Miss Quan led the way from the station to the University but sadly, the sat nav took us in the wrong direction! But we eventually got there.


When we arrived at the University, we met an Ambassador called Greg, and he showed us to the room where the "Welcome Session" took place. In the Welcome Session, we were taught more about the "Brilliant Club" and how we could benefit from being in the club. We were given orange lanyards with visitor passes and words searches to complete. Greg then gave a talk on whether mobile phones should be banned in school. We then discussed our views.


Next, we went to our first tutorial where we met our tutor, Cameron Hind, who told us we would be studying "Disease Detectives". He taught us about how disease spreads and how quickly it can happen. We spoke to one another in pairs for 30 seconds and then swapped partners twice more to illustrate how disease spreads from one person originally infected with disease to the rest of the group. We looked at the different types of diseases which are Fungi, Bacteria, Viruses and Parasites. We were also given a work book and homework to complete for the next tutorial.

At 1.15 pm , we had our lunch with all of the
 other schools.

After lunch, Monica, a student of Exeter University, gave us a tour of the Campus. I especially liked the book store! We looked around the sports facilities and the football fields.

We had a great day and it inspired all of us to want to go to University."

## HEGARTY REVISION HABIT

Over the last few months, the Maths department have been introducing a fantastic new resource:-
> www.hegartymaths.co.uk.

Each activity consists of a quiz and a video lesson.
For revision:
Students try the quiz first and then if they find that they have not mastered the topic they watch the video, make suitable notes and re-do the quiz until the topic is mastered.

Throughout the year, teachers will be setting homework revision tasks based on topics from earlier in the year to help with securing learning.

If a student has time to extend their work they can either "Request more work" via a button on the site or use the search function to work on targets that they have identified for themselves.

If a topic is proving particularly challenging the software automatically points the way to the "Building Block" lessons for that topic.

All tasks completed are saved and visible to teachers and each individual question has a comment box that can be used to ask for help.

The initial log in details for all students are their first name, last name and date of birth. (A password needs to be chosen at first log-in) It is easy to request that these details are reset to the default values if passwords are forgotten.

## ANNUAL YEAR 9 MATHS DAY

On the $20^{\text {th }}$ March, Year 9 had their annual extended Maths skills day delivered by Ted Graham from Plymouth University and attended by pupil representatives from Hans Price and other local schools and 12 of our brightest and most resilient mathematicians.

In the past we have had instruction about Takeshi's Castle,
 and about the necessary power to propel a man to follow an arc through the sky.


This time in 2018, we had an exploration of the exponential algebra required to cut a pizza into varying numbers of slices. Then ENRICO FERMI estimation ('The Fermi paradox' named after physicist Enrico Fermi, is the apparent contradiction between the lack of evidence and high probability estimates for the existence of extra-terrestrial civilizations), making assumptions and getting an estimate... For instance: How long does a dog sleep in a lifetime? How long is a toilet roll? How long would it take to cycle from Land's End to John O Groats?

Cont/...

The afternoon was spent looking at card tricks using extended Maths skills and teaching the course participants how to count the cards. Thank goodness Vegas isn't close!

Afterwards, Shehan commented, "We were challenged by others with similar intelligences which made it interesting." Erin said, "We discovered the maths for different, real life circumstances." And Marcus observed, "We were challenged to stretch ourselves and think about the questions."

Looking forward to 2019 now!



GIRLS RUGBY WITH BRISTOL RUGBY
With his excellent coaching and enthusiasm, Rich Hynes from Bristol Rugby has been working with both experienced players as well as a group of year nine students who are new to rugby. The hope is that this project may encourage new players to join local clubs so that they may play regularly. The girls have really enjoyed the experience and we hope to work with Rich and Bristol Rugby again in the future.

YEAR 8 GIRLS NORTH SOMERSET HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
The year 8 girls have been attending training every week, sometimes twice with the key stage 4 students. In turn their standard of hockey has improved no end and this was evident at their season's end tournament. All of their games were close, with the highlight being a win against Sidcot. They should be congratulated on their commitment.


The squad was made up of Harmani, Lauren, Ella, Abbie, Jess, Dottie, Megan, Amelia and Sophie-Ann. Thanks to all the other year 8 girls who have regularly attended training as well.

We would like to congratulate our resident trumpeter Adam Williams 9Q on achieving a Merit in his Grade 3 Trumpet Exam. Well done Adam!

If you are interested in learning a musical instrument please see Mrs Aves (Head of Performing Arts) for more information.

## BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING - PLEASE DO OFFER ANY FEEDBACK!

Our Behaviour Policy aims to ensure a calm, focused learning environment in which all students can reach their full potential every lesson. To support this, we made some changes to the policy this year to provide clarity and consistency for all. Our expectations are clear and simple for all. They are:

- Arrive to lessons on time, with correct equipment
- Speak to everyone politely and with respect
- Take responsibility for your learning
- Follow staff instructions
- Care for the College environment

In lessons, staff will give students a Level 1 warning if they behave in a way that does not meet one of these expectations. That provides every student the opportunity to correct their behaviour and then focus for the remainder of the lesson.

In most cases this is enough and students then re-focus to complete work. If a student does not respond to this warning, a Level 2 behaviour point is issued and the student is then placed in another classroom for the remainder of the lesson. Students will receive a lunchtime detention either the same or following day for this.

Parents and carers can use the portal to look at their child's behaviour and achievement points. There is a general descriptor provided (for example, more than 1 Level 1 warning).

On rare occasions we may place students in our internal Inclusion Base or even externally exclude for a fixed period of time. This can happen for example, if they fail to follow a classroom teacher's instruction to go to another classroom or have failed to meet expectations when in the Inclusion Base.

Our Behaviour Policy also outlines how we acknowledge and celebrate positive behaviours for learning. This week we have been delighted to see so many students receive award certificates as part of our termly celebration assemblies. Tutors and teachers regularly issue achievement points, send postcards, tweet examples of great work and make phone calls home. Year Leaders use assemblies to reinforce excellent attendance, positive feedback from staff and participation in extra-curricular activities such as sport and performing arts.


## PREPARATIONS FOR GCSE EXAMS

For many students in Year 11, we are entering the final stretch in the preparations for their GCSE exams and it is essential that all students in Year 11 are fully focused on their preparations for these crucial exams. It is crucial that students are working outside of the classroom and we recommend that students are revising at least 2 hours a night after school and for more time over the Easter holidays. With this in mind, now is a good time to consider how we can best help young people with preparing for these most testing examinations by helping them to revise.

There has been a quiet revolution in some educational circles where research in how the brain works is casting new light on how we should advise young people to best revise. Cognitive scientists such as The Learning Scientists, who you can follow on Twitter as @AceThatTest or visit their website on www.learningscientists.org advocate some six key learning strategies to maximise learning. Their website has handy posters and videos to support you understand how to use dual coding, retrieval practice and spaced learning to revise effectively. They have also got support materials in eleven other languages too and it is all free of charge. So if you want revision advice that is backed by research and science then look no further!

Another useful resource to support with revision are the many educators who share their work online. Have a look at www.theconfidentteacher.com for his take on effective revision. He advocates quizzing, flashcards, Cornell notes, past papers and the use of graphic organisers. He can be found on Twitter as well @HuntingEnglish and is worth a follow for his sensible and well-grounded advice. Twitter is full of fantastic people including Broadoak teams in English and Humanities to follow for exam support in a broad range of subjects and even Instagram is getting in on the action with Broadoak's own History team sending out insta-revision to the students!

There are mountains of online support available for revision from BBC Bitesize, which has been updated for the new specifications, to the exam boards that give example exam papers and then YouTube opens up even more avenues of support. One of the more recent gems we have found on YouTube is a video showing how to use the Leitner method for revision - it is simple, effective and easy to implement at home. I would suggest you find out the exam board for each subject your child is taking and then go on a treasure hunt for the support you need.

At Broadoak all students also have access to Hegarty Maths (www.hegartymaths.com) to help them fill any gaps in their mathematical knowledge or to revise, revise and revise a bit more. This website includes videos about how to complete each topic in maths as well as activities to test their knowledge and understanding.

If you have not already and you would like to purchase materials to support your child in their preparations for exams, then the school offers a wide range of official resources to support in every subject, from revision guides to work books and even readymade flash cards. All of these resources are available on the ParentPay website and students eligible for pupil premium funding can access revision resources for free or at a discount. Some other new arrivals on the scene include revision cards from Corbettmaths.com for Maths and flipscocards.com (for English). These offer a highly effective though potentially more pursefriendly addition to your child's revision pack.

Sitting with your child and looking over the examination schedule and helping them prepare their own revision timetable is invaluable as you can support them plan and organise themselves. Beware of overfilling their time - they need to have a break and a bit of fun too.

It's never too late to make a huge difference to their grades so let's get those young people revising now. Hard work will pay off when they open those exam results in the summer - as we say ad nauseum to year 11 'you will never regret working hard but you may regret not working hard enough.'

If you know a young person siting exams this year here are a few practical ways you can help them:

- Encourage preparation. Do they know all the dates and times of all the papers and do they know what they need to do to be ready by this time?
- Revision works well with little but often. Pulling an 'all nighter' the night before an exam is not beneficial, especially for this age group. In fact it is highly unlikely to work with the new examinations.
- Support a routine. Keep to your regular mealtimes if at all possible.
- Don't underestimate that power of proper rest and good nutrition. Even if it is short, some time outdoors for sport or a family walk will boost mood and stamina.
- Know where to find help if anxiety becomes overwhelming. Your school will have links with local support services.


## STUDENT DROP-OFFS AND PARKING

We have had some concerns raised by local residents and parents here about road safety issues in relation to our students being dropped off and collected from the school. Can we please ask parents and carers to not park on the yellow zig-zags outside the school or block residents' driveways in any way, and to be considerate of other road users at the start and end of the school day.

We very much appreciate your cooperation with this matter, and in ensuring the safety of our school members and local community.

## APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Schools can apply online for free school meals from Monday 19th March. Please remember that this date is for schools who input their parent's forms. All council communications to parents will advise parents to apply during the school holiday (from Monday $26^{\text {th }}$ March onwards). If you are sending out reminders to parents, or putting an article in your newsletter, please tell
 parents to apply from $\mathbf{2 6}^{\text {th }}$ March. This is because many people try to apply earlier than our published dates "to get in early", and don't realise their entitlement will be cancelled off.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

I am pleased to inform you that Broadoak has launched a new attendance initiative. We have revised our procedures and will be working with parents and carers to improve attendance and punctuality. This is because research has shown regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential. Broadoak is committed to providing a full and efficient education to all, and encouraging our children to strive for excellence. Therefore, for a student to reach their full educational achievement, a high level of attendance is essential.

The Department for Education research includes data about pupils at KS4 and shows that, in general, the higher the overall absence rate across the KS4, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of the KS4. It notes: ... pupils with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs $A^{*}-C$ or equivalent and 2.8 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*- $^{*}$ C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils missing 15-20\% of KS4 lessons

We wish to work in partnership with parents and carers and so are seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends every day and on time. We are always pleased to work
together with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties but we are also committed to improving attendance levels.

The target attendance figure for all pupils is a minimum of $97 \%$ attendance. Based on current attendance figures your child will be placed in

## Attendance Diamond

 one of the following groups below. Your child will be informed of their Attendance Group.Regular attendance is a legal requirement, but it is also vital for students to maximise their learning and achieve full potential here at Broadoak. There are a number of important steps that you can take to ensure your child maintains a high level of attendance:
> Ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn. Lesson time begins at 8.45 am .
> Ensure the school has up to date contact details. We will contact you by text, email, via schoolcomms or by telephone if your child is absent and you have not contacted us by 9.30am. This ensures that truancy is quickly identified.
> If your child is ill, contact us via the absence line or schoolcomms. Please make sure you advise us every day your child is absent.
$>$ If no contact is received regarding the absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately we are responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence will be authorised. You may be asked to provide medical evidence if your child has a poor attendance record.
> Ensure that all medical/dental appointments are made outside of academy time.
> Avoid trivial absence such as, 'buying new shoes'. This would not be accepted as a reasonable absence.
> Holidays should not be taken in term time. Holidays will not be authorised and may incur a fine.
> Contact your child's Tutor or Year Leader if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into College.

Did you know that $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ attendance $=1 / 2$ day missed every week!! That is a lot of learning missed!

We expect students to attend everyday on time. The minimum percentage we expect is $\mathbf{9 7 \%}$ attendance - this means missing no more than 5 DAYS IN THE YEAR.

Every week your child's Tutor will tell your child their attendance colour. Each week your child will be able to look at the display and see if their attendance has improved, A GREEN arrow will tell him/ her that they are improving.

Good and improving attendance will be acknowledged and rewarded, and this could be in the form of a postcard home, a telephone call, a certificate, a badge or entry into a prize draw.

It is never too late - Attend EVERY DAY and be in TEAM GREEN

Thank you for working with us in order to achieve the highest possible level of attendance and punctuality for your child.

## School Matters!



TERM \& HOLIDAY DATES - 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

| TERM 4 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Start | Monday | 19 | February 2018 |  |
| End | Friday | 23 | March 2018 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| TERM 5 |  |  |  |  |
| Start | Monday | 9 | April 2018 |  |
| Bank Holiday | Monday | 7 | May 2018 |  |
| End | Friday | 25 | May 2018 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| TERM 6 |  |  |  |  |
| Start | Monday | 4 | June 2018 |  |
| End | Friday | 20 | July 2018 (12.25pm finish) |  |

