



Brookfield Community School

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11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new year at Brookfield. This week has seen the return of students back to school after what has been a very long break. It has been a particular delight to see our new Year 7 students in school. They have already made a favourable impression on staff in school who are looking forward to working with every one of them in years to come. I would also like to welcome our new sixth form students at the start of their A Level studies.

As we get underway with the new autumn term, it is useful to reflect on the momentous nature of last academic year, and to remember and acknowledge some of the many achievements and successes. I would also like to look ahead to this academic year and outline some of our plans. The COVID situation this year, and the resultant closure of school for most students since March, meant that school, parents and students had to work closely together and support one another at a most difficult time. Perhaps even more so than last year, we will once again need the same spirit of working together in partnership to support every child's learning. All staff at school are determined that the year ahead will be a full, productive and successful period for all students, with plans in place to support all year groups, especially those in Year 11 and 13 who have vitally important exams next summer after having missed a large period of school time.

Like last year, an important function this year is to update you regularly on the latest developments and progress at Brookfield, through the website and publications such as our newsletter, *Brookfield News*. We will also continue to actively seek your views on aspects of school life.

You are aware of our plans regarding re-opening and how we are organising school to ensure students have the very best education in the safest of environments. It is important that all students understand that expectations in school are that students' behaviour will be exemplary and will be supportive of one another at this time. We will keep you fully up to date with any changes to guidance and how school is organised.

Below are some reminders and key information and dates:

Key events/dates – Autumn term:

Week commencing 21 st September	Parent Information Evening (see below)
Wednesday 23 rd September	Primary Liaison Evening (Year 6)
Wednesday 7 th October	Redhill KS4 'Winter Games'
Tuesday 13 th October	Year 7 Settling-in Evening
Monday 16 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 30 th November	INSET Day – students not in school



Parent Information Evenings – September 2020

These evenings were introduced last year and were very well-received by parents. The format is a short session for parents only and involve presentations from myself and members of the school leadership team on key aspects of the school, such as results, policies, academic 'catch-up' plans, and future initiatives. In addition, there will be information relating to your child's specific year group. Given current restrictions we will unfortunately not be able to run these as face to face events, but will instead deliver these remotely via a recorded presentation. More information will be communicated shortly.

Results – Summer 2020

Year 11 and 13 students were impacted more than any other year groups during the past 6 months. To face the uncertainty and worry of being prevented from attending to school just months before their final exams was extremely difficult to take for them and their teachers. Many had been planning diligently for months – indeed, years – for the summer series of exams. To be denied the opportunity to sit their exams was a bitter blow, as was the further uncertainty that was created around results days and the infamous algorithm. Despite the disruption, there were some incredible achievements by our Year 11 students, many of whom I am delighted are returning to Brookfield sixth form. After the change in government approach to A Level grades some days after results day, most of our sixth form students were accepted onto their preferred courses at their chosen universities.

Parent Pay

I am delighted that we will shortly move to an electronic payment system for school dinners, trips and other payments. This is long overdue and will be a real improvement for parents in managing expenses associated with school. Further details will follow next week.

Building and improvement works

Like last year, this summer has seen some extensive building work and improvement to our facilities. These include completely refurbished and newly appointed classrooms on the top floor of the main block (Maths and Geography rooms). This work has transformed this part of the school. We have also had a new roof on the Science and B block area, which will mean the end of the familiar sight of buckets capturing leaking water in some areas of school. The works have been very successful and have significantly improved the school environment for students and for staff. The work is part of a longer-term rolling programme of improving school facilities and accommodation.

Communication - Brookfield website

Another development since lockdown has been the new school website, which has been live for some time. The website is fully integrated with social media platforms and will increasingly become the key method of communicating with parents and the outside world. This will be enhanced further with the introduction of a new Parent app later this term.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our students will once again be a key priority this year. As part of our return to school, we are paying particular attention to students' mental health and ensuring that the return to school is managed carefully and considerately. We recognise that many students are desperately looking forward to getting back to school, but also that for some there will be anxiety associated with the return after such a break. We are working hard to ensure the return to school is managed sensitively. As part of our pastoral support system, we have created a team of 4 new Pastoral Support Assistants who will support Heads of Year and students in all year groups. The school website contains lots of information on safeguarding which can be accessed [here](#). The site also contains a link to useful resources and contacts. These can be found under 'Safeguarding resources'.

School dress and equipment

Students look very smart on their return to school and I am grateful for your support in ensuring that students are dressed appropriately and smartly in their uniform and equipped for the school day. Please refer to the guidance provided in the August letter and on the website for information.

Work within Redhill Academy Trust

We are continuing our close work with Redhill and Brookfield staff are engaged in a range of professional development programmes organised through the Redhill Teaching School Alliance. We have had support from Redhill colleagues in a number of areas, with the ongoing building works and in assisting with the development of some Brookfield teams. Executive Headteacher, Tim Croft, works closely with the school and will provide regular updates on our ongoing and developing relationship with Redhill.

Parent Forum

As part of our work with parents to share information and to obtain feedback, we once again plan to run our Parent Forum. Due to current restrictions this forum will take place remotely using Microsoft Teams. Details of the first meeting will follow.

Change of details

In order to fully comply with the law, we must ensure that the personal information and permissions we have on file are up to date for each student. Details may change for a variety of reasons and I ask that you notify us of any changes as soon as possible, especially contact telephone numbers. Data collection sheets will be sent home to confirm contact and medical details; please ensure that you return the completed form to the Pastoral Support Team c/o Brookfield Community School at this address as soon as possible.

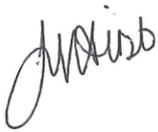
Medical conditions

It is very important that the school is fully aware of any medical condition that your child has, including medication required during the day. Please ensure that any medication brought into school is labelled with your child's name, including inhalers. Any prescription medication should be brought to reception staff who will arrange suitable storage and provision. This will help us to ensure your child's safety at

school as well as maximising full access to the whole curriculum. Medication will only be given for recognised medical conditions or periods of specific illness or injury and will be given for the condition documented on the form only.

I am excited by the year ahead, whilst hoping that we avoid the sort of disruption that will forever characterise last academic year. All staff at school are looking forward to working with your children to ensure we build on the successes of previous years. Thank you once again in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KHirst', written in a cursive style.

Keith Hirst
Headteacher