



Brookfield Community School

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Our Reference: KH/GHR

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the new half term which will – we now know - see the return of students back to school. I hope you were able to have something of a half term break. I would like to begin by thanking you for the support you have provided over the past six weeks in terms of our remote learning provision. Our students have engaged extremely well in very challenging circumstances and one of the key reasons behind this engagement is the support our students receive from home. This is very much appreciated and something that all staff value and depend upon.

The prospects for the term and the year ahead are much more positive, with the outlook that schools will get back to normal starting this term. Thank you to those parents and students that contributed to our Remote Learning survey before half term. This was a valuable exercise and provided us with very useful information as we plan for the next half term.

With the absence once again of GCSE and A Level examinations this summer, the landscape for the remainder of the year is certainly different to what we would normally expect. However, there are key events and processes that will be going ahead as normal. These include Year 6 to 7 transition, Year 9 GCSE Options (Guided Choices) and World Book Day. In addition, there are some exciting new developments such as the launch of our Parent App, the implementation of Vertical Tutoring and House systems and some extensive building improvements across the school.

Government announcement - Monday 22nd February

You will no doubt be aware of the announcement yesterday by the Prime Minister which outlines the 'roadmap' out of lockdown and the implications for schools and families. Students in all year groups will return to school from week commencing **Monday 8th March**. Further information is to be provided to schools later this week. Our plans for full re-opening will be communicated as soon as they are agreed. Central to our plans will be to ensure that students return safely and are swiftly enabled to recapture the experience and good habits that being in school bring.

Term Dates 2021/22

Confirmation of term dates for next year can be found on the school website [here](#). Key dates, including INSET days, are shown below. Note that students do not attend school on INSET days.

Thursday 2 nd September 2021	INSET Day
Friday 3 rd September 2021	Term 1 starts - all year groups in school



Friday 15 th October 2021	INSET Day
Monday 29 th November 2021	INSET Day
Friday 23 rd December 2021	Last day of term (13.00pm close)
Friday 24 th June 2022	INSET Day
Friday 8 th July 2022	INSET Day
Friday 22 nd July 2022	Summer Term ends (13.00pm close)

Vertical Tutor and House Systems

You will be aware that we were not able to introduce the new Vertical Tutor and House systems as planned from September 2020 due to the disruption caused by last year's lockdown. The planning to introduce both systems from September 2021 is in full swing. This will involve the creation of Houses comprised of students from different year groups and will help to foster collaboration, competition and aspiration across the school. More details will follow this term.

Year 11 and 13 assessment

Ofqual and the Department for Education will be reporting this week on the responses to their national consultation on GCSEs and A Levels. This will provide more detail on how qualifications will be awarded this summer. Once we have the information we will develop a timeline for the remainder of the year. We will share the detail of this with all students and parents as soon as possible.

Parental and Student Survey results and actions

Overall, we received over 300 responses from parents, and over 700 from students, both of which were very welcome.

- **85%** of parents either Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they were satisfied with the remote learning strategy used by the school.
- **83%** of parents felt that the approach in this period of lockdown was an improvement on that used last year.
- **85%** of students and parents said that feedback was received at least weekly, with **31%** of parents stating that their child received feedback daily.
- **67%** of parents felt that the right amount of work is being set, with 15% feeling that there is too little and 17% feeling that there is too much.
- **94%** of parents and **95%** of students felt that the communication from school had been clear.
- **55%** of parents and **59%** of students felt that the balance between live lessons, recorded lessons and other types of learning is correct.
- **86%** of parents and **86%** of students stated that they are coping well with the current situation.
- **98%** of parents responded that they knew how to keep their children safe online, and **99%** of students stated likewise.

Obviously, due to yesterday's announcement, our reliance on remote learning will fall once school reopens fully in two weeks. However, identified actions as a result of parent/student survey include:

- Teachers will continue to review the amount of work that they set, listening to the feedback for the students in their classes.
- Promotion of our whole school community activities/challenges will take place during pastoral time to encourage all students to take part.
- Continued monitoring of student engagement will take place daily, with support provided where needed.

If you are unsure of how to keep your child safe online please visit the DfE webpage [here](#) which provides support and for parents and carers on how to keep children safe online.

Year 6 to 7 Transition

Next Monday is national offer day, when Year 6 families find out about their secondary school offer. We have very exciting plans in place for our new Year 7 students to make an effective transition to Brookfield. This involves an extended period in the last week of the summer term when Year 6 pupils will come to Brookfield for an extended 'roll-over' transition. In addition, we have a number of parent/students events and information sessions to make sure that the move from primary to secondary school is a smooth and enjoyable process.

School improvement and building works

As Brookfield is part of Redhill Academy Trust, so we have the opportunity to bid into a central School Condition Allowance fund. Like last year, we have once again been successful in these bids which will see some extensive building work and improvement to our facilities during this year. These include completely refurbished and newly appointed classrooms on the middle floor of the main block (English and Library). This work will transform this part of the school. In addition, we will have totally redesigned toilet blocks in both areas of the school. Finally, the entire rear elevation of the school will have new windows through a project that will see the end of the metal-framed, single-glazed windows that only the most nostalgic will be sorry to see replaced. The work is part of a longer-term rolling programme of improving school facilities and accommodation. The work will continue the improvement of facilities and conditions for students and staff.

World Book Day - Thursday 4th March 2021

One feature of the school year that remains is World Book Day. While students will miss the opportunity to see their teachers dressed up as some of their favourite literary characters, we still aim to mark this day and to promote books and reading. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a range of book-related activities ranging from a 'virtual book bake-off' to a 'guess the book-title emoji' competition. Look out for the World Book Day newsletter for more details.

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience - Monday 1st March and Tuesday 2nd March

Our commitment to outstanding careers provision has remained throughout the past 12 months and partial school closures. A reminder that students in Years 10 and 12 have lessons suspended next Monday and Tuesday so they can undertake the virtual Work Experience. Details have been provided through Show My Homework and students have been prepared for this experience through their form period.

Hopefully, with the end of this latest lockdown now in sight, we can all look forward to a time when we can start to enjoy the things we used to take for granted. It is likely that there will be the need for lots of important communication over the next few days and weeks to ensure parents and students are fully aware of next steps.

Staff are very much looking forward to welcoming all students on their return to school.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr K Hirst
Headteacher