

# Spring Term Newsletter 2

10<sup>th</sup> April 2025



**BROOKTHORPE  
HALL SCHOOL**

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of a long school term, it is always beneficial to reflect on pupils' achievements and the progress we make together. This term has seen so many successes and 'firsts' for Brookthorpe Hall School. I am personally so pleased that our careers education programme has rapidly progressed. Pupils across both phases have enjoyed visits from Auras Dog Rescue, Army Careers and work experience opportunities will be available for some pupils shortly. Our careers curriculum is not only about preparing young people for the place of work but also supporting pupils' growing independence into young adulthood. In a recent external audit, I am delighted to inform you that Brookthorpe Hall met 6 out of 8 GATSBY careers standards with 100% scores.



It is always difficult at the end of a term to say farewell to members of our school community who have chosen to move on. I would like to sincerely thank our upper phase teacher, Amanda, for her support and working with pupils in all classes since Springtime last year. Amanda has always worked hard to support our pupils in humanities, cookery and art. On behalf of everyone at Brookthorpe, I would like to wish Amanda the very best for the future.

At the same time, it is also a pleasure to introduce new colleagues to Brookthorpe Hall and I am pleased to welcome Fyfe to our team as Cover Supervisor. Fyfe will work across our lower and upper phases to cover absences and deliver 1:1 interventions in the months ahead



And finally.....I would like to congratulate our marathon team who completed in the Gloucestershire half-marathon on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Ed, Jasmine, Jim, Hollie and Ruby all competed and have raised an amazing £610 for Auras Dog Rescue!

Please enjoy this edition of our newsletter and make a note of forthcoming events happening in the summer term!

**Jon Bell (Headteacher)**

# World Book Day

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day at Brookthorpe Hall School was a wonderful success! Students were invited to come to school dressed for 'cosy reading,' so we saw onesies, pyjamas, blankets, and children carrying a stuffed toy and reading book under their arm. The hall was transformed into a literary landscape as children spent the day immersed in books, participating in a range of activities designed to embrace the love of reading. It was fantastic to see the upper school listening to younger students read in our reading nook and observing students snuggling on sofas, losing themselves in a good book. The 'Dress a Potato' competition was also a roaring success as students (with the help of parents and carers) transformed a potato into a favourite book character. Congratulations to our Abbie, Daniel, Jonah and Turner for their winning potato entries, all received a book token!





Larch students have been really getting into the theme of Spring!

We have been learning about what makes healthy, happy plants and everything they need to grow well. We are starting to look at plants as food and looks forward to planting some and watching them grow next term!

We have also made a Spring themed artwork using tissue paper and natural objects from outside. We covered the objects in paint and then used them to print on to our pre-made backgrounds.



Laura (Larch Class Teacher)  
Dani (Teaching Assistant)

## Oak Class



Oak class have had a very successful spring term!

A particular highlight that has been enjoyed by staff and students alike has been the 'show and tell' we have run each Thursday. It has been magical seeing the smiles on the students' faces when they are able to show their peers their items of choice, and the audience of students have been very respectful and putting their hands up to ask questions.

We are now at that position that as the class engaged with the sessions so effectively, the students have been able to invite a friend from another class to join us, making this a lovely event for all of lower phase to enjoy.



Toby (Yew Class Teacher)  
Sam and Leanne (Teaching Assistants)



### Geography

The students in Yew class have been finding out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. They have also been looking at the features of rivers, where they start, where they end and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time. Yew class decided to go and investigate for themselves...



Jenna (Yew Class Teacher)  
Suresh and Cat (Teaching Assistants)

## Pine Class



This term in English we have been looking at the book 'The Spy Fox'. We have enjoyed watching clips of the story, and the students have recalled the story in their workbooks. The students were asked to identify the main subjects within the story and include different adjectives to describe the characters. The students are amazing at thinking of different adjectives and verbs they can use to be creative in their story writing.

This term we have worked around a theme of Rainforests. This has linked to Art where we have been very creative, making our own shoe box rainforests. We looked closely at the leaves of different trees, and how to draw a leaf, we then used these new skills to draw a full rainforest scene. There were some amazing drawings.



In Science we looked at the different layers of the rainforest, and animal habitats of animals that live in the rainforest layers. For Geography we looked at the locations of the different rainforests, and the reason why they are located on the equator.



The students are continuing to enjoy their sessions with Forest Green Rovers, and their PE sessions with Jurell. The students have taken part in lots of different activities including tennis cricket, football and basketball this term. We have also enjoyed our cooking lessons, using different skills such as cutting, mixing and measuring.

## Pine Class



Pine class have enjoyed some amazing visits from the lovely Author BWare to hear all about the book that our very own Theo helped to illustrate, and Aurora's Dogs where they met Honey the dog. The visits were also a great introduction to careers for the students.



The students in Pine class continue to enjoy their Wilderness sessions. The activities they have enjoyed taking part in this term include Metal detecting, Finding hidden objects in the woods, the obstacle course, stream walking and water rockets. We are all excited for the next term at the Wilderness, now the weather is getting warmer, and the new adventures we will experience.

Robyn (Pine Class Teacher)  
Ellie & Manu (Teaching Assistants)



## Acorn Class



Welcome to Acorns class our new class for our little learners to learn through play.

We have been learning about Minibeast this term, each of the boys have enjoyed collecting bugs to put in the homes they have created for them such as worms, ants, slugs and Centipedes.

Looking after and watching the tadpoles growing so they are big enough to go into Kate Y's pond.

Learning about lots of different life cycles, creating different homes through art, matching games and respecting how to play alongside other children in their class.

Acorns have had a very busy term, and we are so proud of the boys, had a fab Easter break!



Amelia (Acorn Class HLTA)  
Kate (Teaching Assistants)



Palm class have had a very busy term. The class have been learning about “The very hungry caterpillar” and as part of world book day, they worked together to create a caterpillar which was so big it took over the classroom floor!

We have started careers lessons with Emma W. We have looked at jobs at the seaside and jobs within the emergency services. The most exciting lesson was when Emma bought in her two knitting machines. Both boys managed to make a hat within one lesson. They worked with a real focus, and they were so proud of their achievements.

As part of our Mother’s Day celebrations, Palm class worked on some wooden wreaths which were designed, coloured and decorated. The boys did an amazing job, and the mums were thrilled with their gifts.



We had our first ever whole school celebration for Eid. Fiona G did a wonderful job, organising activities, food and gifts of sweets which were very much appreciated. The Palm boys completed a motor skills activity based on the crescent moon. They also decorated the classroom with tradition lights which are used as part of the Eid celebrations.

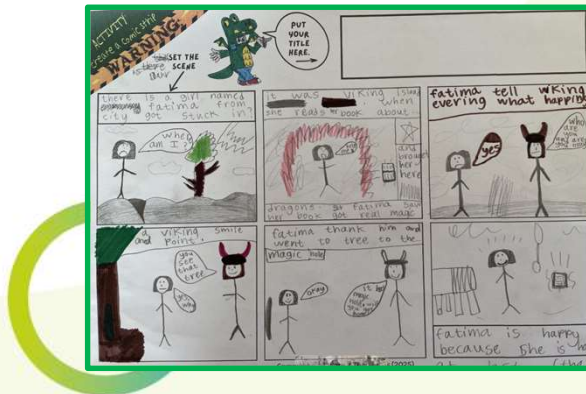
Auras dogs’ charity visited the school. Palm class were privileged to meet “Honey” the rescue dog. The boys were a little unsure at first, but Honey behaved well, and she was very friendly. The boys gave the charity bags of dog’s biscuits as a little thank you. Honey was very interested in the bag of biscuits, but she had to wait until she got back to the charity so that she could share the gift with the other dogs in their care. Palm class would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Easter.

Best wishes Hazel and Monali

## Upper Phase English



The students in Cedar class have enjoyed reading the second book in the Morris Gleitzman series, *Once*. We have tied this into learning more about World War Two and the Holocaust. Students read extracts from Anne Frank's diary and practised using the Point Evidence Explain technique to analyse the writer's language.



Birch class thoroughly enjoyed the visit from writer, B Ware. They listened to a reading of the novel and they took part in writing activities. Students enjoyed illustrating comic strips and many bought a copy of the book. It's heartening to hear that students are reading the book at home. We have more copies in school if anyone would like to buy one.



Some of our older students will be taking their English Functional Skills exam at the end of the school year. Well done to all for completing practice papers and building exam skills; the hard work will pay off!

Louise Taylor (Head of English)

## Upper Phase Maths



Upper Phase Maths this term –

Yet again the students continue to make excellent progress in maths at Brookthorpe Hall School. It has been brilliant to see the confidence of each individual grow and students are starting to become excellent problem-solvers.

When I started here maths felt like a bit of a barrier to many of our learners however, it has been great to see how well they are flourishing. This has been strengthened by some fantastic results in our latest assessment. Students who I would like to give a special mention to for their progress are:

- Theo – achieving a good score in his Functional Skills Entry Level 2 assessment.
- Oliver – completing his first ever Functional Skills Entry Level 2 assessment.
- Dalton – for improving his Functional Skills Entry Level 2 assessment.
- Jonah – for improving his Functional Skills Entry Level 3 assessment.
- Shay – for improving his Functional Skills Entry Level 3 assessment.
- Jack – scoring a fantastic grade in his Functional Skills Entry Level 3 assessment which was the highest amongst all of the Upper Phase.

I could not be prouder of how the students in Upper Phase have taken to maths this academic year to date, the attitudes to learning are incredible and they are really seeing the success of their hard work.

Russell Beacham (Head of Maths)

## Upper Phase Foundation Curriculum



Upper phase students have been studying New Media Art and Pixel Art. Elm Class produced very creative pieces exploring Sound Art and illustrating both sounds and noise.



In Science, we conducted a solubility experiment, recording our findings in a table of results and interpreting the results which we learnt how to convert to a graph. PSHE produced some thoughtful role-plays around the theme of respect and inclusivity.

For World Book Day, Elm Class penned their own limerick:  
There was a young class called Elm  
With Amanda and Claire at the helm  
With Kelan and Shay,  
Jonah and Andrzej;  
The best-behaved boys in the realm!



All students enjoyed celebrating Eid al Fitr, one of the two main festivals in Islam, with halal sweets, baklava, samosas, colouring activities, card making, stickers and henna tattoos.

In cookery we have produced some beautiful dishes, from lamb koftas to veg and fish stacks. The students are much more confident and increasing their independence in following recipes and executing main meals. Well done, the budding chefs!

Amanda Parker (Upper Phase Teacher)

## Outdoor Education

The good weather has finally arrived and we have been making the most of it at the Wilderness Centre!

Everyone has been really enjoying launching our water powered bottle rockets, although we have occasionally lost them in the trees! We've also been learning how to throw boomerangs of various shapes and sizes, lots of fun but no one has managed a perfect return yet...

Other highlights have included mudlarking in the stream at Lower Lydbrook finding Victorian treasures and many sessions of Archery Tag in the woods.

Upper phase have been working hard on their own archery skills and many have earned certificates which will be awarded soon!

Finally, there have been some amazing efforts in the Easter Egg hunts - nearly 30 eggs to find in a very large area!

Well done everyone for your enthusiasm and energy! Here's hoping the weather stays warm and dry and we can have many more adventures next term!



### **Rounders**

Over the past term we have covered rounders and are currently transitioning into basketball. Rounders has been a huge success, exploring batting, fielding and variants of kicking. Batting has been an exciting opportunity to improve both proprioception and coordination of the students through catching and fielding activities, students have been working in pairs to hit a goal of consecutive catches as well as fun warm up games that have provided the students the opportunity to feel connected working together to achieve a shared goal.

The students have shown great teamwork within the mini games and even in competitive matches, recognising different roles within the fielding team and using them to form strategies against the batting team. A highlight this term has been the determination the students have displayed to capture bases and make swift decisions occasionally communicated by their teammates or even frequently completely independently to score points and keep their team afloat.

Jurell Williams (PE Teacher)

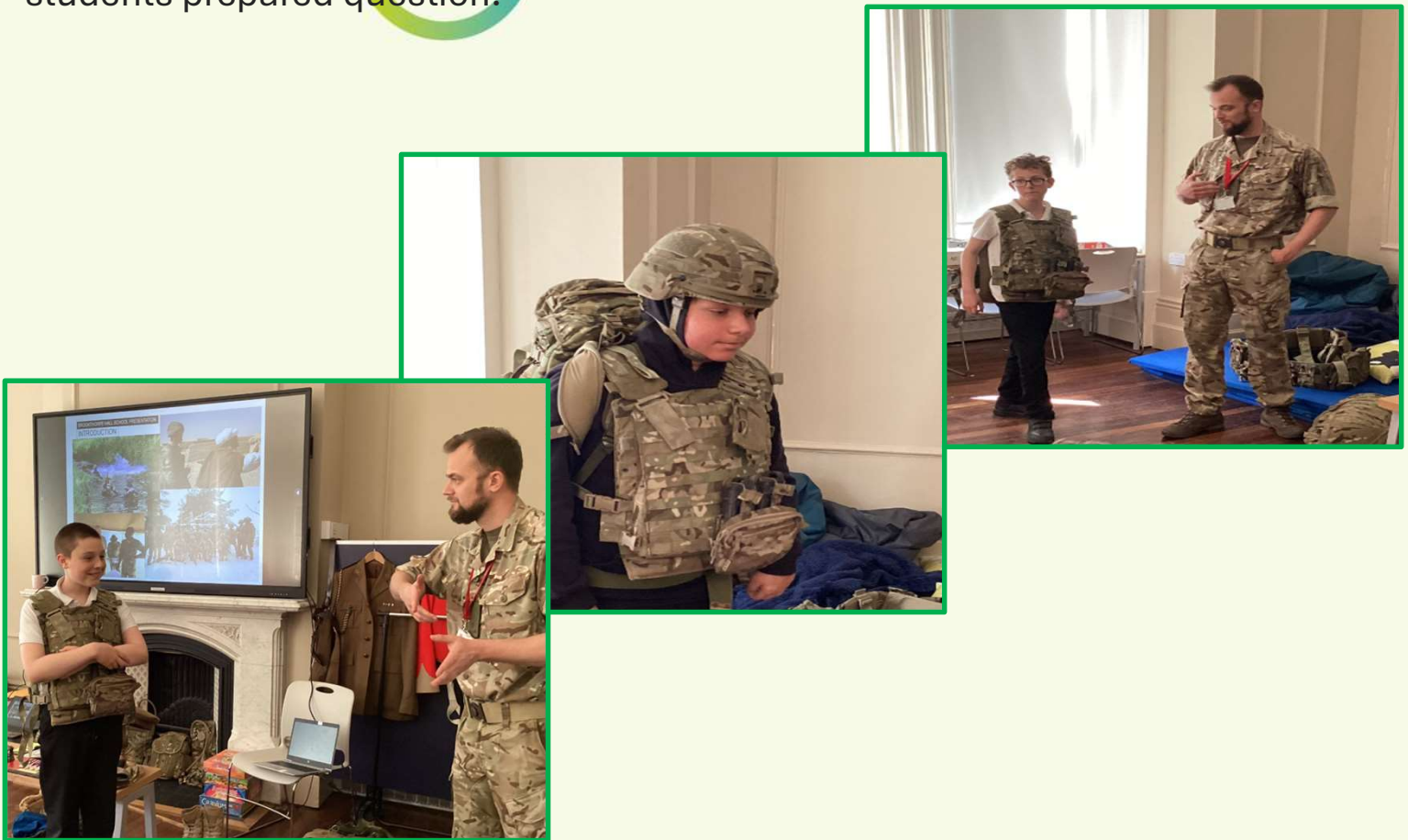
## Careers Update

For Careers, Classes have been working through the Incredible Futures second student workbook, 'What is a Job?', this will be completed by the end of term and after Easter they will be starting the third workbook, 'Why do we Work?'

Students have been navigating Careers sites such as BBC Bitesize, Careers Pilot, Apprenticeships and Indeed. Searching their Dream jobs and researching what skills and qualities and training is required. We will continue to build skills over the coming months.

In March we had Auras Dogs Trust visit the school, Michelle and Honey had a great time, students enjoyed meeting Honey and asked lots of questions. Michelle will visit again and promised to bring Daniel who is disabled and has his own set of wheels to get around.

This week Major Martyn Fulford visited for a Careers talk about joining the Army, students prepared question.



LJ and Evie presented The Spring Centre with £259, the money that was raised at the Christmas Fayre. We had a guided tour and took away ideas for the school.

Lucas visited Catch a Smile, a local Charity that has fishing, animals, and a Crazy Golf Course. Lucas presented Danny with £259, the money raised at the Christmas Fayre.



## Careers Update

We are currently sourcing Companies and Businesses that can offer our students a meaningful work experience, where our students can learn social and communication skills in a work setting. Currently Tesco Stroud and Smiles Coffee Shop have agreed. We are also booking encounters with Employers and Employees to visit the school to talk about their jobs/Careers and have a few exciting visits in the pipeline for the coming year.

Emma Watkins (Head of Careers)



## PSHE Update

In PSHE this term, students have been learning about British Values, Racism and Misogyny. The Lower Phase have been focusing on what racism means, how to recognise and challenge racist and discriminatory scenarios and how hurtful words and actions can affect others. They then moved onto exploring different cultures and traditions and discussed their uniqueness.

Additionally, and with their form tutors, lower phase have been deep diving into the British Values, understanding fairness and respect, the importance of rules and loads and understanding the value of working together.

Similarly, the Upper Phase have had a particular focus on learning about our British Values; understanding how each one is incorporated into everyday life. Furthermore, they have covered a unit on understanding respect and how to show it, including different types of discrimination, whilst learning how to recognise and challenge it. Students have also covered the history behind racism, including looking at the life of Nelson Mandela and the abolishment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Next term, students will be covering aspects around Personal Well-being and Sex Education.

Emma Prendergast (Head of PSHE)

Cedar Class enjoying their reward visit for achieving 35 'fuzzies' for teamwork, kindness and engaging in all their learning.



## Safeguarding Update

Welcome to the first input of our parent safeguarding bulletin. This bulletin is designed to support you as parents/carers in your understanding of Safeguarding in the context of Brookthorpe Hall School.

At Brookthorpe Hall School safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and every young person has a right to a voice. We believe that you can report your Safeguarding concern to a member of staff that you trust, have a therapeutic relationship with and that can ensure your concerns are heard.



Brookthorpe Hall are proud to be a part of the Operation Encompass Scheme. Your named key adult is Rhiannon Trevethan – DSL. We are looking to expand our key adult team soon.

Operation Encompass is an innovative project in which schools and nurseries in Gloucestershire are participating. Many other Local Authorities including the 5 other counties that we support within as well as nationally have successfully implemented Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass commenced on 4th March 2019 for schools and 14th December 2020 for nurseries and aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards, or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

Each school has members of staff who have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the notification of a domestic abuse incident. You can also find out more information here

<http://www.operationencompass.org/>

## Safeguarding Update



As of January 2025 we are officially a Foodbank Voucher issuer!

Gloucester Foodbank is part of the Trussell network of food banks. Our Foodbank was founded by City Church Gloucester and opened in April 2005. Initially it was based in Barton Street, Gloucester before moving to The George Whitefield Centre on Great Western Road in September 2009. We work with many local churches, schools and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

No matter your circumstance, finances, housing situation you will never know when you need to access the foodbank. Should you feel that you require a foodbank voucher please contact the below members of staff for a confidential discussion and issue of a voucher.

- Rhiannon Trevethan – Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Maya Rasmussen – Pastoral Co-Ordinator

Out of Gloucestershire County? No bother! We are currently developing a locality map for each county that our young people live within to ensure you are fully supported within the community that you reside.

These locality maps will be available in due course. In the meantime do give me a call at school and she will support and sign post you to support services in your area.

### Gloucestershire Constabulary Safeguarding Alert

We have received a Safeguarding alert from Gloucestershire Constabulary. Please read the following information regarding the alert:

There is a new "trend" called SmartSchoolBoy9. SmartSchoolBoy9 is someone who may be acting inappropriately online. This individual is potentially masquerading as a child on social media to interact with children.

This situation has also led to increased discussions and concerns on social media. 'Copycat' accounts have emerged, and videos related to this issue are circulating in some schools. This has caused fear and anxiety among some younger children who have been exposed to this harmful content.

Please see the link below for more detailed information from the Our Safer Schools website.  
<https://www.oursaferschools.co.uk/2024/09/20/safeguarding-alert-smartschoolboy9/>

Rhiannon Trevethan (Designated Safeguarding Lead)





# **BROOKTHORPE HALL SCHOOL**



## **Contact Details**

Brookthorpe Hall School, Stroud  
Road, Gloucester GL4 0UN  
01452 717004