

# Spring Term Newsletter 2

18<sup>th</sup> July 2025



**BROOKTHORPE  
HALL SCHOOL**

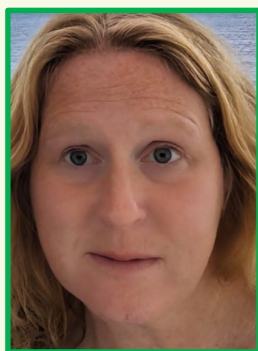
## Message from the Headteacher

It has been an amazing school year at Brookthorpe Hall School and one with many 'firsts' for us to celebrate. Most significantly, perhaps, is that pupils have enjoyed a range of opportunities and experiences both inside and outside the traditional classroom. I have been immensely proud of pupils' engagement and participation in the weekly Wilderness visits where opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors has become an integral part of our curriculum offer. Our school community has enjoyed several opportunities to come together to provide pupils with a range of enterprise and communication opportunities, including the Christmas and Summer fayres and summer BBQ.

Additionally, pupils have continued to make great progress in many different areas throughout the year. I have been so impressed with the amazing progress many of our upper phase pupils have made in English and Maths. Similarly, our lower phase pupils have continued to show great commitment and progress with their reading and phonics. Pupils' engagement in dedicated PSHE and Careers lessons have also seen progression in life skills and thinking about future opportunities.

Another important 'first' this year has been the hugely positive impact of PE on pupil's communication and interaction. It is wonderful to see pupils participating in team games, focusing on archery and supporting each other during each session. The progress made by all pupils is truly remarkable.

On behalf of everyone at Brookthorpe Hall, we would like to wish Jasmine Boulton (Clinical Lead) all the very best for her new role at a different Options Autism's setting. I am delighted to confirm that Hollie Blunt will be our new Clinical Lead from September. As we can continue to grow and develop our curriculum pathways, we are delighted to welcome Jenny Bell and Beth Partridge to our lower phase team. Jenny will be the class teacher for our new Yew Class and Beth is excited to become the class teacher of Acorn. I am also pleased to confirm that Kate Yarnton (TA in Acorn) has now permanently joined our Brookthorpe Hall team too.



Jenny Bell



Beth Partridge



Kate Yarnton

It is now time for us all to take a well-earned break, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming pupils existing and new to Brookthorpe Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Jon Bell (Headteacher)**

# School Summer Fayre

## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Pupils and staff held our first ever summer fayre to fundraise for Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Food Bank and some additional play equipment to be used in school. As part of their careers programme, every class worked together to organise a stall, produce posters and sell their home-made products to parents, families and friends who visited. Staff and pupils did an amazing job with stalls selling crafted jewellery, plants, cakes and even books. We all enjoyed taking part in the tombola, guess the name of the teddy, guess the weight of the cake and numbers of sweets in the jar. Pupils' most popular stall was 'soak the teacher' which was very refreshing on a scorching hot Friday afternoon. We are delighted to confirm that we raised an amazing £482 and would like to thank parents, families and friends of the school for their support..





# Lower Phase Visit to Cadbury World

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

**At 9.15am the coach left Brookthorpe to go on a chocolatey adventure to Cadbury's World!**

This tied in with the Lower Phase set text this term, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. After arriving at the factory, students became immediately immersed in the story of how chocolate was brought over to England and how the Bournville chocolate factory was created. Students enjoyed a multi-sensory experience as they tasted a fresh, chocolate drink; they painted their own designs in chocolate; they went on a 4-D rollercoaster to experience how chocolate is made; and finally they were given three delicious bars of chocolate to take home. All students behaved excellently and they were a credit to Brookthorpe.



# Sports Day

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Brookthorpe Hall School sports day 2025 was a huge success, and full of great energy and excitement. The events covered were jumping, balancing, throwing and running. The day kicked off with jumping, with students determined to beat the sum of their own individuals scores whilst working together. Each jump was met with encouragement from their partner and others' around, shouting names and roaring with joy as they pushed past their limits.



Next, we had a coordination challenge, some students were tested in a diverse obstacle course which consisted of balancing, crawling, throwing and, of course, speed!





# Sports Day

## Wednesday 9<sup>Th</sup> July

Soon after came the throwing event, using foam javelins and working in pairs taking turns. With only 3 attempts the students threw every javelin with maximum and effort and a strategical approach to land the javelins into high point scoring zones. Even when throws didn't go as far, smiles didn't fade as they were met with positive energy from their peers. It wasn't about winning it was about participating and trying your very best.



The final event for sports day was running (the scarecrow relay). Staff and students worked together to accomplish a common goal. Students decorated the staff with pieces of sporting equipment as staff remained resilient and determined to keep them at balance before the final whistle.

Under the sun were no losers, only winners, we headed into the medal ceremony where all the students earned a medal. Whether it was for their individual achievements that day or their team efforts, everybody left feeling like a champion!

Jurell  
PE Coordinator



## Larch Class



Larch have had an excellent Summer Term, working hard on things like wholes and halves and ordinal numbers in Maths, life cycles and food chains in Science and the home nations and UK capital cities in Geography.

We have really enjoyed reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in English! We have designed chocolate bars and golden tickets. We've thought about how we would feel if we won a golden ticket, coloured in the characters as we met them in the story and chosen some words to describe them. We also wrote about our amazing trip to Cadbury's World!

The Summer Fayre and School Disco were so much fun! We enjoyed wearing our disco outfits, dancing together and chasing the colourful lights across the floor.

Laura, Cat and Dani want to say, 'THANK YOU!' to Larch Class students for a lovely term and we hope you all have great summer holiday!



Laura (Larch Class Teacher)  
Dani and Cat (Teaching Assistants)



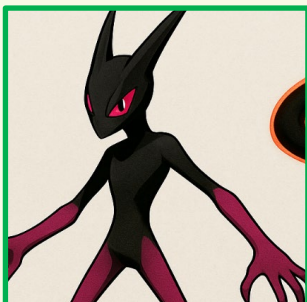
## Oak Class



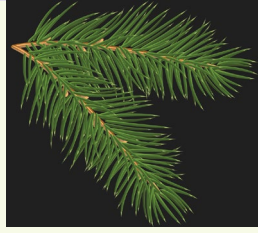
Oak class have had a very creative and enjoyable final term. We have finished off our English topic of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with a magnificent trip to Cadbury world, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

The class have had their first experiences working with AI towards the end of this half term, taking some of their already excellent cartoon drawings, and turning them into more realistic cartoon like characters. The students have been amazed witnessing their creations being brought to life.

All staff that have worked within Oak class hope that our students have a fun, but also restful, holiday break after what has been a very eventful year!







What a fantastic year it's been for Yew Class!

A real highlight this term was our exciting trip to Cadbury World, which tied in perfectly with our "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" topic in English. The children had a brilliant time discovering how chocolate is made, learning about the history of the Cadbury brand, and exploring the interactive exhibits. From riding the Cadabra ride to watching a chocolate-making demonstration, the day was filled with fun, learning — and, of course, some delicious chocolate tasting!

Throughout the year, the children in Yew Class have worked incredibly hard across all subjects. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and positive attitude have been a joy to see. They've made good progress and have really enjoyed learning new things every step of the way.

We've now wrapped up our end-of-year activities, taking time to celebrate achievements and reflect on all the wonderful moments we've shared.

A huge well done to all of Yew Class! Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. We wish you a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break!



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



This term in English we have continued looking at the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We have enjoyed continuing reading the story as a class. Linked to the book, lower phase had an amazing trip to Cadbury World, where the students learnt all about the chocolate making process. They were really pleased that during the tour they got to sample some melted chocolate, with a topping of their choice, and watch the chocolate making process happen in front of them.



This term the students have taken part in lots of activities with Jim, where they have learnt lots of new skills, and learnt how to use tools and equipment safely, whilst helping to create the new allotment and forest school areas.





## Pine Class



In Geography we looked at mapping routes, and identifying familiar objects on the route, they also looked at our school grounds, and improvements we could make to our school.

In History, we have continued looking at the life of Queen Elizabeth II. The students have enjoyed learning about the Queen's life from birth to adult hood, and this term they have looked at Queen Elizabeths marriage, her children, and becoming Aire to the throne.

The students are continuing to enjoy their PE sessions with Jurell and were introduced to volleyball, and archery this term.

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



## Acorn Class



Acorn has had a very busy term learning about dinosaurs and how to walk and dance the dinosaur way. The different types of dinosaurs, their names, what they eat, making our own dinosaur worlds with real grass grown from seeds and even made fossils with them hid inside.

We have been carrying out science experiments from making dinosaur poo to exploding volcanos, all the boys have had a lot of fun even though it's been very busy and warm month, but nothing a nice ice pop can't sort out.

We are very proud of how the boys have progressed in everything they have done, and we can't wait to see more improvements next year!

We have our wonderful Beth starting with us in September and we can't wait for you all to get to know her!

Have an amazing 6 weeks off ! 😊



Amelia (Acorn Class HLTA)  
Kate (Teaching Assistants)







In maths we have been looking at the properties of 2D shapes. Drawing shapes from memory and discussing characteristics such as the number of sides and corners. The boys have also demonstrated their counting skills by accurately counting objects to 50.

In English, the boys have been working hard to improve their motor skills and handwriting. They have experimented using different types of implements to write with. The clear favourite is felt tip pens, due to the bright colours and how the felt tips feel on the paper. They have read “We’re going on a bear hunt” and sequenced and acted out the story. They have enjoyed watching Micheal Rosen act out the story online.

PE with Jurrell has been a firm favourite. Both boys have been completing sensory circuits developing their skills of balance and target practice. Even on very hot days the boys have continued to work with focus and determination.

Much fun was had during the whole school dragon boat racing day. After making their models the boys had to blow through a straw to get their boats from one end of the paddling pool to the other. After the event the boys tried sinking their boats and enjoyed having a quick splash around with the water.

Palm class created a card store for the summer fair. They helped to design and make the cards. They selected the special ones which were sent off for printing and afterwards they helped to package them up. They helped to man the store at what was a very enjoyable summer fayre.

The boys have spent the last two weeks making and recording memories for their scrap books. Sports day which was the highlight of the year. Jurell and Nat created a special sensory circuit sports day for Palm class. Both boys entered all events and won medals.



## Upper Phase English & History



In Cedar class this term, we have continued with the 'Once' series, following the character of Felix as the war ends. This is the fifth book that they have read as a class this year, which shows how enthusiastic students are to engage with fiction. As they read and listen to the books, their spelling, vocabulary, and knowledge of the wider world increases greatly.

In history lessons this term, students have understood the importance of voting. Students have learnt about the electoral system, the role of parliament, and they have understood the difficulties that women had gaining suffrage. Cedar class had a visitor from our music teacher, Katie, who talked about her great aunt, Helen Craggs, a suffragette who fought tirelessly for women's right to vote.

All Upper Phase students have worked hard to build their functional skills in English. Students have practised past papers and taken writing and spelling exercises to improve their resilience in exam conditions. They have improved their spelling ability with weekly spelling quizzes and vocabulary competitions. Students are understanding the importance of reading and they have taken books home to read from our library. Next term, we will start reading homework, in which students have to read for at least 20 minutes a day to improve their reading ability.

Birch students thoroughly enjoyed preparing for the Summer Fayre this year. They collected and watered plants and made price labels for their plant stall. They also used their creativity skills to make jewellery and key chains. Well done, Birch, for raising nearly £50 for charity!



Louise Taylor (Head of English)  
Sue (Teaching Assistant)





## Upper Phase Maths & Science



### Maths

What a brilliant year it has been in maths at Brookthorpe Hall School. All students have made excellent progress this year both academically and in their confidence. We have spent this year focusing on the fundamentals and mastery of the essential maths topics which can be transferred into the real world. Students have been working through the Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills Curriculum, allowing students to master the number, shape and data topics at a level which suits them. Lessons have been tailored to fit the level of each individual students, and it has been amazing to see the considerable progress made by most of the students. The overall effort in maths has been fantastic and each child has brought into the learning and has contributed brilliantly in our class discussions. Next year now that we have been given the green light to set exams, all students will be able to begin their qualification journey through Functional Skills and onto GCSE maths.



### Science

Students have fully invested their interest in the practical side of science this term, they have completed many experiments ranging from the impact of liquid on an eggshell to finding the perfect ingredient quantities to make slime. Students have learnt how to conduct an experiment and log their results as well as being able to draw diagrams scientifically. We have tried to give the students a variety of different experiments that cover biology, chemistry, and physics. The students should be proud of the work they have produced this year and should look forward to more experiments next academic year.

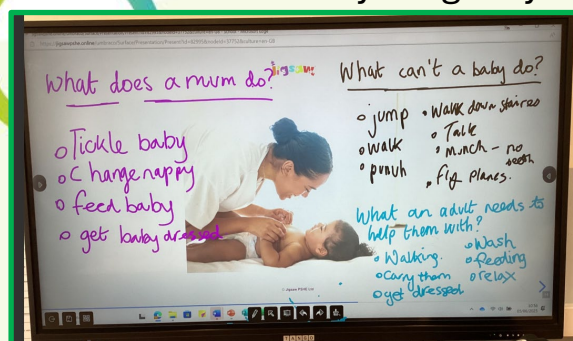
Russell Beacham (Head of Maths)

Carina, Michaela, Saria and Leanne (Teaching Assistants)

## PSHE Update

What an incredible two terms it's been for our new PSHE curriculum. Students across all phases have engaged brilliantly with a wide range of topics that support their personal, social, health, and emotional development. PSHE can sometimes be a sensitive subject, and I am so proud of how thoughtfully and maturely students have approached the lessons. They've shown real resilience, empathy, and curiosity, even when discussions have touched on tricky or emotional issues.

This term, our focus has been on Sex and Relationships Education, tailored carefully to be age-appropriate across the school. All students began learning about the changes that happen during puberty, and how those changes can affect them physically and emotionally. The Lower Phase explored how babies grow, changes to their own bodies, and how families and roles can differ. They finished the unit by creating colourful Ribbon of Change mobiles to reflect on everything they'd learned.



In the Upper Phase, students built on this by learning about conception, birth, body image, and emotional wellbeing during puberty. They also discussed stereotypes, family dynamics, and how to stay safe and confident as they grow. Older students examined more complex topics, including consent, gender and sexuality. Throughout, they were encouraged to express their thoughts, ask questions, and seek support when needed.



Looking ahead, I'm excited for our next unit, where we will explore different cultures, beliefs, and what it means to feel a sense of belonging in the world.

Thank you for your continued support - it makes a real difference.  
Emma Prendergast (Head of PSHE)



## Careers Update

We have had a busy few months with Careers, students in Upper Phase have completed the first three Modules of Incredible Futures and 27 AQA Awards will be awarded this summer.

Lower Phase students have had their first taster lesson in Careers where we talked about likes, dislikes, hobbies and information that may be required when applying for jobs.

Birch and Elm have been cooking cakes, pancakes and meals such as spaghetti Bolognese and stir-fry. It has been great to see the progression in skills such as chopping ingredients and following recipes.

Cedar and Birch also visited Skills zone and learnt a lot about water, fire and road safety. Next academic year we have planned in two visits for Lower Phase students. We had a successful Summer Fayre and two donations of £125 have been presented to Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank. The students raised a further £250 for outdoor equipment for the school.

Next year we will be exploring experience 's of work in the community. Creating jobs within the school for students to gain valuable experience of the world of work. Working on partnering with local colleges and Further Education provisions to ensure our students have varied options in education and Apprenticeships Post 16. Students have filled out a questionnaire on Careers and we will be using this feedback to shape the Careers programme next year.

We will be sending out a parent questionnaires and look forward to working with both student and parents in enhancing career and life skills future potential.



## Outdoor Education

*It has been a fantastic final term of what has been an amazing first year of Outdoor Education here at Brookthorpe. This term has seen us go slightly further afield and also try our best to hide away from the blazing sunshine!*

Lower phase have continued to show excellent teamwork and communication skills whilst playing Archery Tag at the Wilderness centre and there has been a lot of fun and laughs with the water balloons! I was also very impressed by several students' abilities and interests in knot tying when were making our very own catapults. The whole of Lower Phase should be very proud of their efforts in Outdoor Education. The students continue to build their confidence and earn more and more trust which can lead to more adventurous activities next year!

Upper phase have had some brilliant opportunities this term at a couple of different venues: we first had 2 weeks at Wydean Canoe Centre on the River Wye where we got to try Paddleboarding, Canoeing and Kayaking and then in the penultimate week of term we had a visit to Aztec Adventure near Worcester to have a go at their High Ropes course. Every student that took part tried their very best and seemed to have a brilliant time! Next year we can look forward to visiting more venues and having more adventures!



Thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm and engagement with Outdoor Education this year, thank you to all the parents that make sure the students come to school with the correct clothing, and thank you to all the staff that have accompanied me to the Wilderness Centre and beyond this year. It's been a brilliant first year and I'm excited to see where we go next!

*Have a great Summer,*

Ed Farrow (Head of Outdoor Education)

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# **BROOKTHORPE HALL SCHOOL**



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