

# Brook Academy

## Newsletter

### Students' Voice



The Brook Academy student council met on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The council comprises of 4 students and supported by 2 members of staff.

Through much debate the council decided the following:

- The academy held elections on 7<sup>th</sup> December to decide the chair and assistant chair for the council. All students and staff exercised their democratic rights and voted.
- The council will wear badges to identify them.
- A variety of fruits to be on offer at lunch.
- A proposal to be made to the headteacher for students to go away on residentials



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### Headteacher's voice

It has been an exciting start to the new school year. Everyone has worked extremely hard to settle into new routines, build relationships and become a part of Brook Academy. I would like to thank all the staff at Brook Academy who work tirelessly every day to ensure young people are well cared for and are learning.

Young people are really benefitting from the access our 1:1 sessions, music, boxing, mentoring, counselling and therapy sessions. We have been fortunate to have our local PCSO Rhian attend our site every three weeks to work with young people and staff. Our educational psychologist and school nurse have now been assigned to the academy and they will be attending sessions with young people to ensure annual review paperwork reflects their needs.

We have a newly elected student council. They were elected from their class groups

The head of student council was voted for at the end of term. Jacob is the head of student council with Immy as the deputy head of student council. The student council meet once a term to ensure that all pupils voice is heard and that any issues are brought to the headteacher.

Well done to Jacob and Immy for doing your speeches in front of each class and a special thanks to Odette and Baya for ensuring that vote was done fairly. I want to also thank the parents and carer the young people as it has been a challenging start to the year. Brook are committed to working collaboratively with parents/carers to ensure that young people at Brook Academy have the best opportunities.

I wish you all happy holidays.

Best wishes,

Robyn

## Students at Work Exhibition

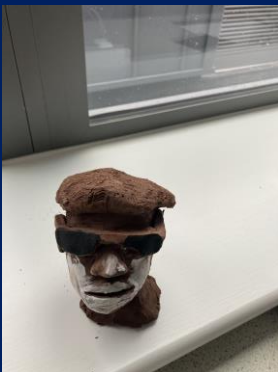
Forest School Bugs Houses



Art; Day of the Dead Masks



Art: Clay Masterpiece



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## Literacy Corner

Literacy is at the heart of what we do.

Help us to help them!

Literacy development is an important focus for the academy. The students having been working hard since the beginning of the school year to improve their literacy.

### DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Programme

Every day, after lunch the students along with their tutors read for fifteen minutes. This aids their fluency, comprehension skills and contribute to reading for enjoyment.

### Vocabulary Development

Vocabulary development is built into the various subjects' curriculum. Each teacher is responsible for teaching the vocabulary specific to that subject. One of the techniques used is the look- say-cover- write technique. This does not only work to develop the vocabulary of our students but also helps in developing their cultural

Capital.

### Fresh Start:

Students who are identified as needing special reading intervention are withdrawn for approximately 20 minutes per day and taught phonics and comprehension and other reading strategies.

### Help us to help them!

School success begins at home and so we would like to encourage our parents to spend 10- 15 minutes every evening reading with their children or listen to children read to them.

Next issue we will explore strategies that can be used at home to develop a love for reading.

Students at Work  
Exhibition

Celebrating Creativity





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## SEN News

As a new SEMH specialist provision in Gloucestershire, it's been a challenging but rewarding start to the new school year. This term we have really focussed on transitions and building positive relationships between staff and pupils – we are all a new team working together for the first time, after all!

We are fortunate to have Parallel Counselling and music therapy onsite to deliver interventions for pupils on a 1:1 basis. It has been amazing to see pupils taking ownership for their wellbeing and engaging so positively with Emmy and Matt.

We have developed our SEMH intervention offer, delivering sessions such as Banish Your Self-Esteem Thief, The Anxiety Gremlin, The Anger Gremlin, Lego Therapy, Talkabout for Teens, Resilience and Sensory Circuits. Pupils are allocated an intervention based on area of need and most of these run in smaller groups than the usual class of eight.

Kind regards,

Sara Yuen

### Riddles' corner

1. What can run but never walk, has a mouth but never talk, has a head but never weep, has a bed but never sleep?
2. Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. What am I?
3. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?
4. You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. What would you light first?

### End of term



This term ends December 16, 2022 for two weeks Christmas break. The Academy reopens January 2023.

### Christmas Dinner



The Academy Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Special selection of Christmas music will be played to entertain both staff and students and to the ambience.

#### Christmas menu

- Roast turkey
- Crispy roast potatoes
- Selection of vegetables
- Pigs in blankets
- Stuffing balls
- Dessert: strawberry or chocolate ice-cream.

Any concerns regarding allergens etc. please contact Amanda Norcross at either:

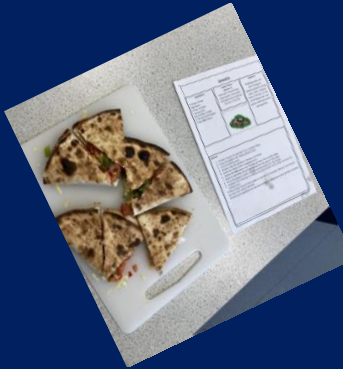
- Email: [Info@brook.learnmat.uk](mailto:Info@brook.learnmat.uk) or [Amanda.norcross@brook.learnmat.uk](mailto:Amanda.norcross@brook.learnmat.uk)
- Tel: 01452 221626

### Celebrating our Success!

The academy has also received its 5 stars status from environmental health. Well done Amanda!

## Students at Work Exhibition cont'd

Food! Glorious Food!



## Teaching and Learning

Work has been progressing to further develop the Brook Curriculum. When we resume in January we will be aiming to deliver three learning pathways to meet the needs of all children in our academy.

- Pathway 1 – Life and Independent Skills, Numeracy and Literacy, My World and My Problem Solvin.
- Pathway 2 – Life Skills, Entry level programmes, Literacy, Numeracy and short courses ASDAN Awards.
- Pathway 3: Independent Skills, Entry level courses as a step up to prepare for GCSE's.

All students will be involved in PSHE, RSE and Citizenship and RE and will continue with our Healthy Schools Fitness and Sports Initiative. Those who continue to need support in developing their literacy will continue the Read Write Inc programme and all staff will be trained in this in February 2023.

Assessment: We will be assessing all students to establish their reading, writing and numeracy competence.

## Contact us

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Finally, be safe, be careful and have a wonderful end of year break.

From the staff and students at Brook Academy.

**Answers to riddle:**

1. River
2. The letter "R"
3. A map
4. The match
5. Your name