FRESHERS SIGN UP FOR FAVOURITE CLUBS

FAREWELL TO AN INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER

STUDENTS CREATE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

SURGE IN CYCLING AT HAMMERSTONES CIRCUIT
BROOKSBANK BIDS FAREWELL TO AN INSPIRATIONAL AND DEDICATED TEACHER

“A sand grown un” from Blackpool, Lynne Buckingham began her career at Brooksbank an incredible thirty-five years ago. During those years, Lynne has been an inspiration to both staff and students. We would like to pay tribute to Lynne for her exceptional work, praise her tremendous achievements and thank her for her dedication.

Graduating from Leeds University in 1976, Mrs Buckingham took up her first post at Shelley High School, in Kirklees as an English teacher. She had quickly introduced Drama onto the curriculum and produced their earliest shows. Actors Lena Heady (Game of Thrones) and Jodie Whittaker (Broadchurch) sprung from Shelley Drama.

Lynne, a Yorkshire Darts’ player, MC and writer for “Darts World” and “Darts Player” magazine and “The Yorkshire Evening Post” soon introduced a Darts Club and held exhibition matches where top players played staff and students. In 1980 she became Head of Library.

Lynne’s career at The Brooksbank School began in April 1982 when she was appointed as Head of Library and Resources and an English teacher by the then Head of English, Bryn Moore. A current Governor, Norman Kemp, was on the interview panel.

Once again it was not long before Drama was introduced into the curriculum and a host of productions followed from “Grease” to “Joseph”, “A Doll’s House” to “The Tempest” working with fellow Drama teacher, Mrs Burton. Alongside Mrs Greenwood, Lynne enjoyed many school trips to London.

Lynne introduced Brightspark, the Sixth Form General Knowledge quiz, which tests the knowledge of staff and students, in November 1982. It is now in its 35th year. The spin off “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” evening was memorable.

A setback came in 1999 when Lynne had a serious eye injury and feared she may not be able to continue in the job she loved, but luck was on her side. She completed her MA in Poetry the following year.

Like Cerberus, she has served under Mr McCallion. Teaching has remained interesting as she has enjoyed fresh challenges; Key Stage 3 English, Head of Drama, Director of Creative Arts, Head of English and finally, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning, (setting up brand DRIVE), NQTs and new staff and Performance Management.

Lynne won the Gold Arts Mark for the school, introduced the prestigious Arts Awards and has led on the very successful Rotary “Youth Speaks” competition.

Throughout she has remained Head of the LRC and has continued to promote a love of reading through Brooksbank into Books, five “Shelf-Life Readers’ groups, Get Caught Reading, involvement in The Calderdale Teenage Book of the Year, Form Literacy boxes, Readathon (which has raised over £40,000) and plenty of competitions. A thriving Chess Club and competition will also be part of Lynne’s legacy.

In retirement, Lynne will continue to teach A Level Literature at Brooksbank and will be undertaking consultancy work in other schools. She will also be writing, travelling and enjoying time with her husband John Bostock. She is also looking forward to her son’s wedding in April and his MSc graduation in June. Life will not stand still for this highly motivated teacher, who has made an incredible contribution to Brooksbank and we wish her all the very best.

In November we celebrated the effort and achievements of our students during the last academic year at our annual Prizegiving evening. What a wonderful evening it was! It was such a pleasure to see so many parents who had come to see their sons and daughters rewarded.

Glowing smiles and warm applause pervaded the room as students, who are now in Years 8 to 11, received certificates and gift vouchers for achieving outstanding effort, contribution to school life and attendance in 2015-16.

The evening began with drinks and canapés in the Foyer, after which everyone took their seats in the Main Hall. Following an introduction from our Head, our Chair of Governors, Marion Bain, described her tremendous pride in the school. Mr McCallion followed by extending his warmest congratulations and praise to all of our prize-winners.

Before the prizes were presented, we listened to two musical performances. First to perform was Erin Fairhurst, in Year 11, who sang ‘Somebody to Love’, from the rock musical ‘We Will Rock You’. Erin was followed by Haydn Osborne, in Year 7, who played Dvorak’s ‘Song to the Moon’ on cornet.

To present prizes, we were delighted to welcome Mr Neil Donkin, our former School Improvement Partner. Prize-winners were welcomed on to the stage by their Head of Year, who summarised each student’s achievements. Students then stepped forward to receive their prize(s) from Mr Donkin.

We hope that all our students will continue with their admirable efforts to aspire and achieve and that we will see them at Prizegiving next year.
NEW PREFECTS TO LEAD ON GOLD STANDARD OF SCHOOL VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR

With this in mind, Brooksbank have taken the traditional idea of the school prefect and given it a twenty-first century update. We have introduced a brand new Prefect System of mature student leadership, expressly designed to help and support our young first year students.

Over thirty students, from Year 11, have now been recruited to act as excellent role models and exemplify the high standards of behaviour that we expect from our students. In line with our school motto, Prefects will be expected to encourage our younger students to do their utmost to aspire to achieve.

Every student in Year 11 was invited to apply and a rigorous recruitment involving applications, references and formal interviews took place in July. “Every student behaved extremely professionally at every stage of the process and I’m very proud of them,” says Mrs Bassinder, Head of Year 11, who has masterminded the new system.

The leadership opportunity will also enable Prefects to develop into independent, confident and mature individuals and will enhance many key skills such as communication, team working and mentoring, while developing personal confidence, motivation and oracy.

Prefects have already been briefed on their responsibilities, which will include registration duties, liaising with members of staff, recording credits, checking planners and mentoring a group of students. During morning registration Prefects will support Form Tutors and their younger peers; they will also carry out duties at break time.

Mrs Bassinder says she is confident that the new band of Prefects will rise to the new challenges expected of them and become hugely successful role models for the school.

NEW YEAR 11 PREFECTS RECRUITED AS ROLE MODELS FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS.
JUBILATION AS BROOKSBANK BECOME PANATHLON NORTHERN DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS!

BROOKSBANK’S PANATHLON TEAM HAS BEEN CROWNED PANATHLON NORTHERN DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS.

Representing Calderdale at the Energise Centre in York, Team Brooksbank competed against two other teams: Cedars School from Gateshead and Springwell School from Hartlepool. Wednesday, 2nd November will be a day they will never forget, when they won five out of the six disciplines, in the multi-sport event.

The winners garnered a fantastic 58 points, eclipsing runners-up Hartlepool by eight points and clearing 22 points against rivals, third-placed, Gateshead.

Team Coach, Mrs Pearce commented, “I am absolutely elated for the children. I can’t put into words how happy they are! We are Champions of the North - that sounds absolutely amazing! I thought we’d do well, but I didn’t think we’d do this well!”

Team superstar, Jordan Calder put his gold medal around his neck saying, “This is my third Panathlon event. It gives us the chance to meet new people and have loads of fun with friends, and also make new friends from other schools. We are all really good at working together as a team and cheering each other on.”

“To meet a Paralympian is just the icing on the cake - it’s so inspirational,” added Mrs Pearce. The Paralympian in question was Rik Waddon, the double Paralympic silver medallist in C3 road cycling. Rik, who is now focusing on winning gold at Tokyo 2020, commented, “Hopefully, this opportunity to get involved in competitive sport might lead to one of these children looking back in ten years’ time and remembering where their own journey began. This will help their development so much, not only in sport, but socially and academically - it has a massive impact.”

Our congratulations go to a superb team effort from: Ethan Etherington, Tyler Love, and Scarlett Hellewell, in Year 8; Thomas Green and Taylor Kennedy, in Year 9; TJ Sugden, Marcus Bentley and Aaron Pritchard in Year 10 and Sam Chadwick, Josh Marshall and Jordan Calder in Year 11.
PLAYING TO WIN AT THE PANATHLON NORTHERN DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.
Joe submitted a mural design for the huge shielding wall in the MICE experimental hall. MICE, the Muon Ionization and Cooling Experiment, is being built at STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Didcot, Oxfordshire to try to answer the big questions about how our universe works. Joe’s winning design will be painted on the huge shielding wall in the MICE experimental hall.

Joe had just one month to develop a design idea and submit it to the competition. He was invited to attend a public lecture at Neutrino 2016, a conference at London’s Imperial College, to receive his prize.

Imagine his excitement at the opportunity to meet physicist and broadcaster, Professor Brian Cox, who was to congratulate Joe on his success! Around 300 hundred people attended the conference, in the heart of Kensington, to hear a public lecture, by Cox, about Muon Physics. “It was a brilliant experience to receive the award and shake the hand of the famous physicist!” says Joe. The professor also presented Joe with signed copies of two of his books: ‘Forces of Nature’ and ‘Wonders of the Solar System’.

Both arts and science subjects are in perfect alignment for Joe, who began his final year in our sixth form in September. Joe, who recently exhibited at Prime ’016, has discovered that his interest in Physics has inspired him to produce detailed, geometric works of art.

Yet Art and Science are not the only strings to his bow. In his spare time, Joe enjoys also enjoys composing music. He has been working on a piece for piano that commemorates the suffering and loss inflicted by World War 1. Joe lost four family members during the Great War – some of them on the Somme battlefield.

Following his A Level courses, Joe plans to further his interests in music by reading Music Production at University. Joe lists the seminal album, ‘Tubular Bells’, by Mike Oldfield, as one of his favourite pieces of music. We wish the multi-disciplined Joe, every success in his future studies and congratulate him on his national success.
STUDENTS NOMINATED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHYSICS
THREE OF OUR STUDENTS WERE NOMINATED FOR THE SCHOOL’S PHYSICIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS AT YORK UNIVERSITY RECENTLY. OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO TO CORINNE BARKER AND REBECCA GARFORTH, IN YEAR 11, AND LUCY MAIDWELL, IN YEAR 13.
STUDENTS LAUNCH CANAL TRUST’S YOUTH FACING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

SIXTH FORM MEDIA STUDIES STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON AN EXCITING PROJECT WITH FOURTEEN19, ONE OF THE UK’S LEADING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AGENCIES.

Their brief was to create an attention-grabbing social media takeover to launch the Canal and Rivers Trust’s new youth facing channels.

Under the moniker CRTDigitalEdge, the ten-strong team worked together to develop an arresting visual identity with an engaging graphic style. Establishing a website and social media hotspots was the next step and creating snappy blogs, vlogs and images quickly followed.

The team had fun ‘in the field’, gathering content and also enjoyed working at Fourteen19’s current HQ, in Huddersfield. Students loved Fourteen19’s “boardroom not classroom” approach where everyone met at the same table, in order to plan the social media launch campaign and discuss ways to drive it forward.

At Fourteen19 HQ, the fledgling marketeers began creating content with text, film and images for posting on Digital Edge’s multiple social media sites; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. All the development work fed into running a day-long social media live stream. The team connected with hundreds of users and created a substantial following on Twitter and Facebook. Campaign Team member Faye Nichols said, “The takeover day was fab, I really enjoyed being part of a professional marketing venture.”

Fourteen19’s Senior Youth Marketing Executive, Alex Blow, praised students’ confidence, ability and creativity.

“Our mission is to actively encourage young people to make collaborative decisions based on their research on the internet and in the field. Students at Brooksbank displayed a high levels of resourcefulness in the relatively unfamiliar field of marketing.”

The school is looking forward to growing contact with Fourteen19 who have recently relocated to Elland.
The visit, organised by Mr Shaw, is part of a project called ‘I am Elland’ where we will be finding out the town’s history, ahead of its Royal Charter celebrations next year. Will Gorton, Molly Barnes, Joseph Buchan, Elle Pratt, Summa Hunter, Elli Jeffreys, Laurence Riley and Jacob Hanson met David Glanfield, a member of Greater Elland Historical Society and former student at Brooksbank.

David enthralled his listeners as he described how the town has developed since a fleeting mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. “The name Ealand was derived from the Anglo-Saxon words “ea” meaning water and “land” meaning dwelling,” said David. “An early reference to Elant, mentions that it was occupied by the Anglo Saxon, Gamel. After King William (the Conqueror) ransacked the area, the land passed to a Norman named Ilbert de Laci of Pontefract.

Students learned that a phenomenal 700 years ago, Elland was granted a Royal Charter in 1317 to hold a weekly market and two fairs a year. The place was growing into a centre for wool production and trade. Moving forward to the period of the Industrial Revolution, they were shocked to hear families were living in primitive and crowded conditions, because the wealthy land owner refused to release land for much-needed new housing.

“Can you imagine sharing a bedroom with your grandparents, attending the same [primary] school until you were 12 and leaving to work in a mill for ten hours a day for the rest of your life?” asked Mr Glanfield. Students stared in disbelief!

“Surviving killer diseases, such as smallpox, or losing limbs in one of the many lethal weaving looms was a blessing. Young children, who were forced to work dangerous machinery in the mills, were often mangled for life.” In 1870, an Education Act raised the school leaving age to twelve – roughly the same age as the students in the History Room!

In the early 1900s, Elland was a busy place with a centre packed with shops and businesses. Three wheelwrights, twenty boot and shoe makers, twenty-three drapers, a basket maker and a cooper lined its streets. Add to that over forty businesses engaged in textile production and students got the picture of bustling town filled with people going about their daily lives.

The students, who are all in Year 8, are currently meeting at a new lunchtime club run by Mr Shaw. Their aim is to write about their lives, had they lived in Elland in earlier times. Mr Glanfield’s introduction has been a really informative beginning.
FORMER BROOKSBANK STUDENT TURNED BOLLYWOOD DANCING SUPERSTAR, EMMA YEARSLEY, BREEZED INTO BROOKSBANK EARLIER THIS TERM TO PAY US A VISIT AND CATCH UP ON ALL HER NEWS!

FROM BROOKSBANK TO BOLLYWOOD, EMMA IS LIVING HER DREAM TO DANCE

Emma spent the whole day at the school, where she was warmly welcomed by her former teachers and lead dance sessions for younger students. “Emma starred in all our Gym and Dance Shows,” recalled Mrs Puddephatt. “Her achieved ambition, of becoming a top flight professional dancer, is remarkable.”

Since leaving Brooksbank, Emma has turned her dreams of becoming a dancer into reality. For the last twelve months she has been starring in the hit musical, Abhimanyu, The Fastest Feet, in Mumbai. She takes centre stage to play Rosanna, a Broadway dancer and choreographer, in the richly opulent, music and dance spectacular. Pictured above is Emma performing one of her Khatak/ Hip Hop routines, from the show.

Whilst in the Sixth Form, Emma studied PE, Psychology and Performance Studies and went on to study Performance Arts at LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), where she specialised in dance. “I’ve been dancing since childhood and it’s the only thing I want to do,” said Emma, in an article in our school magazine in back in 2008.

During that summer, Emma beat off thousands of other teenagers to be filmed for an eight-part television series, ‘Mission Beach USA’, in San Diego, California. The show aired on BBC2 that autumn. She went on to perform in dance shows in Turkey before landing the role in Abhimanyu, in Mumbai. Emma’s drive and motivation to succeed are palpable when you meet her.

“I’m very determined and believe you should never give up, even when times get tough. I’m a big believer in throwing yourself into things to get maximum enjoyment.”

“School days are such vital years!” emphasises Emma. “I hear so many people say ‘I wish I had…’ These are the days when you can really shape your future.

The support at school is incredible – but it’s really important to make the most of it. This kind of one-to-one, personal development support just won’t be there when you leave.”

It was wonderful to see Emma back at Brooksbank!
NYT is a world-leading youth arts organisation and has nurtured many successful actors including Matt Smith, Daniel Craig, and Dame Helen Mirren.

Chris applied for the advanced senior acting course and was selected as one of fifty from around 5,000 applicants. “I feel so privileged to have been offered this opportunity, it opens up so many doors and steers you in the right direction for a career in acting which has always been my ambition and dream,” says Chris.

Chris’ acting talents began emerge when he embarked on the GCSE course at the school and it became obvious that his potential was considerable. “I chose to study Drama at GCSE and my teachers noticed my abilities. Things went well and I found myself really enjoying it.” He has starred in several school productions, including an unforgettable Toad, in ‘The Wind in the Willows’.

Since then, acting has become a driving force. Roles in other thespian groups, including Calderdale Theatre School, frequently meant playing several characters simultaneously. With back-to-back rehearsals and diverse roles - from witty slapstick, moving love scenes and tortuous psycho roles - Chris has shown tremendous drive and determination to succeed.

For the crucial NYT audition, Chris was decided to choose an offbeat character in order to stand out from the crowd. “Most people go for tragedy – one of the greats, like Lear. I was looking to create a different, and hopefully more lasting, impression.” He wanted to bring a little comedy and laughter to proceedings and plumped for a monologue from ‘The Why Overhead’, the office-based comedy by Adam Szymkowicz. The plan paid off!

From pirates to bellboys, Chris has notched up some memorable moments. “The bellboy was interesting; we were scouted as extras for a Christmas promotion, in a shopping centre. Our brief was to interact with shoppers. For ten hours, I wore a fez and bellboy uniform and helped customers by serving them popcorn, opening doors and giving them directions. It was gruelling, but great fun!”

Talented Chris is grateful to all those who recognised and supported his abilities. “My teachers saw my potential and shone a light. I’m also grateful to my mum, who has given me so much support, with things like learning lines and watching performances.”

ASPIRING ACTOR, CHRIS RHODES, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED ONTO ONE OF MOST PRESTIGIOUS ACTING COURSES IN THE UK, AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE.
POSTURE PERFECT
LUKE TAKES NATIONAL GYMNASTICS TITLE

TOP GYMNASTS LOUIS SMITH AND MAX WHITLOCK HAD BETTER WATCH OUT! WE ARE PROUD OF OUR OWN TOP FLIGHT GYMNAST AT BROOKSBANK - LUKE WHITEHOUSE.


Luke, who is in Year 11, is also currently Yorkshire Elite Level 6 (Under 14) Champion. In a sport which tests core strength, agility, speed, flexibility and artistry, Luke’s posture-perfect manoeuvres are all pretty much routine, as he’s been doing gymnastics since he was just four years old!

His gymnastics journey has taken him to sports stadia across the country including the Emirates Arena, Glasgow; GMEC, Birmingham; Loughborough University and Liverpool Echo Arena, but training at this level can be tough and brutal at times. A broken nose, black eyes are just some of the injuries that Luke has had to endure along the way. Training at his club, Diamond Gymnastics, takes up a hefty 24.5 hours every week and indicates Luke’s level of dedication to the sport.

At the age of eight, he represented Yorkshire in the Set Works National Finals, coming 10th. Luke’s reward was a week’s training camp at the National Sports Centre for Gymnastics, Lilleshall, where he was coached by the national level coaches. The following two years at Club Level, Luke won All Round silver medals at Level 2 (Under 10) and Level 3 (Under 11), and he was off to Lilleshall again.

Luke’s competitive streak took another leap forward when he decided, with his coach Andy Butcher, to train and compete at Elite level - the premier league of gymnastics. In his first year at Elite Level 4 at the Nationals, Luke came All Round 10th, last year, at Elite 5 (Under 13), he came 8th All Round with a 1st on vault. This year, at Elite 6 (Under 14), Luke came 8th again with a 2nd on vault.

We are so proud of this dedicated young athlete and wish him every success in the future.
I asked students to carry out an independent project over the half term holiday, and was really impressed with what they brought back to school,” said Mr Taylor. Students researched websites to find out the most desirable requirements and added their own descriptions and interior design elements to their brochures and models.

Niamh Warnock’s model not only looked fantastic – it tasted great too! Niamh stunned Sir and the whole class when she brought in a mouth-watering cake in the shape of a Roman villa. Niamh’s detailed cake caused a sensation with its sponge walls and buttercream roof tiles. “My mum runs a cake business and that’s what gave me the idea for my project,” said Niamh.

Georgia Phillips’ model villa contained workshops, servants’ quarters and stables. “It took a long time to make and I put a lot of effort into it,” she said. “I really enjoy crafting projects,” said Hannah Threkeld. “I imagined what a villa would look like and enjoyed putting it all together. I’m really pleased with the result,” said Olivia Quinn. “I’d seen something like this a few years ago and really enjoyed making my own from cardboard.” “I wanted to get a really good mark for my villa and put a lot of time into making it,” said Rosie Whelan.

“I was really impressed by some of the truly exceptional work which came back,” said Mr Taylor, proudly.
Many had rolled up their sleeves, to whip up some heavenly sponge mixes for Macmillan’s, World’s Biggest Coffee Morning. Last year, the charity raised £25 million to benefit cancer sufferers – a condition which will affect one in three of us at some point in our lives. Macmillan strives to provide medical, emotional, practical and financial support, as well as campaigning for better cancer care.

Kicking off cake week were members of our Sixth Form who had been baking all weekend for Cakes in the Conservatory, on Monday, 3rd October. From cute cupcakes to scrumptious biscuits, it was great to taste those sweet treats. Thank you to Sarah Walton and Samantha Handscomb (pictured) for stirring up the sixth form bakers; your bakes were delicious – and no soggy bottoms! Cakes in the Conservatory raised over £117 for Macmillan.

Three days later, members of staff took their turn to bake for their Coffee Morning, especially for staff. Organiser, Mr Webb said, “According to my rough calculations, our staff baking extravaganzas have raised close to £1,000, over the past three years. The Coffee Morning is so popular, that this year we have decided run the event across two days – just to make sure that no-one misses out!”

Taking pride of place, in the staff room’s cake-tastic smorgasbord was Jasmine Baker’s show stopping chocolate cake. Topped with chocolate coated strawberries and smarties, Jasmine’s confection was scrumdillitelyumpschous! The Coffee Morning raised a further £100.

So far, we have raised over £40,000!

One of the great things about Readathon is that students can read whatever they like! Graphic novels, poetry, comics, eBooks and non-fiction all count when it comes to fund raising. “Our top individual collectors and classes receive prizes, which are presented in assembly,” said organiser, Mrs Buckingham.

Students in Year 7 and 8 have raised over £1,471.00. Top individual fundraisers are:

Noah Reddicliffe, in 7R, who raised a whopping £100; Kaleb Bates, in 7Y, who raised £56.00 and Ben Miller, in 7N, who raised £45.00. The top fundraising form is Mr Baker’s 7X/En1 – who raised a fantastic total of £202.90 between them.

Top fundraisers in Year 8 are: Tara Cordiner, in 8A, who raised £60.00; Zara Mahmood, in 8U, who raised £43.00 and Alfie Charles, in 8T, who raised £41.00. Year 8s top fundraising form is 8X/En2, who are taught by Mrs Futrell and Mrs Buckingham.

Between them, they raised a total of £137.00. The money raised is donated to Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Children’s Charity to help seriously ill and disabled children; CLIC Sargent, the UK’s leading cancer charity for children and young people; ReadWell, Readathon’s sister charity, which provides books and storytellers for children in hospitals and Together for Short Lives, which raises funds for children’s hospice services.
Stripey deckchairs, pastel beach huts, and a straw parasol drew us to the seaside of ‘Brooksbank-On-Sea’, for Brooksbank’s end-of-year summer show. Sounds of Blackpool Tower’s mighty Wurlitzer greeted the audience who munched on sticky doughnuts and stripy rock as they waited for the entertainment to begin.

Through the part open curtain appeared two salty sea veterans, Punch and Judy. Their raucous act, voiced Toby Rogan and Casper Shaw, provided comic, “that’s-the-way-we-do-it” antics with added shriek and shrill.

‘Brooksbank-On-Sea’ was hosted by our two highly competent comedians, Nick Raw and Josh Bean, who are now masters in the art of the dry, comedy double-act. Dressed in nautical 1920’s bathing suits (that reached their knees!) the cigar-smoking couple puffed their way through the introductions - and the oldest jokes on the sea front - with consummate timing and ease.

There were drama extracts from Chris Owens’ seaside play, ‘The Last Resort’, in both acts with ‘Seagulls’ (“It’s my fish”, “No, it’s not - it’s my fish!”) in the first and ‘Donkeys’ (who played tricks on their young, unsuspecting riders) in the second. Two sketches from The Kiljoys (a family of four, steeped in misery) served to remind us that seaside jaunts aren’t always plane sailing.

As to music, the summery tunes swept from the stage like rhythmic waves lapping a warm sun drenched beach. There was a Beach Boys’ medley from the Concert Band, ‘Summer In Vienna’ from the String Group and ‘Hornpipe Variations’ from the Woodwind Ensemble and ‘O Sole Mio’ from Brooksbank Blasts! The Chamber choir sang ‘The Seal Lullaby’, Brass Quartet blew their way through ‘Under The Boardwalk’ and Musicianship Project, for Year 7 students, performed George Harrison’s warming ‘Here Comes the Sun’. ELO’s classic ‘Mr Blue Sky’ and Bryan Adams’ ‘Summer of 69’ fitted the bill perfectly, as did Alice Cooper’s riotous ‘School’s Out!’ - marking the end of another school year.

It was also a night to celebrate some of our talented solo singers. Grace Goodwin gleamed with ‘My Last Summer’, Georgia King sparkled with ‘Long Hot Summer’, Oliver Chapman shone with ‘Hey Soul Sister’, while Tom Good owned Cliff’s classic ‘Summer Holiday’, and Lauren Hambleton melted ice cream wafers with ‘Seaside’.

We loved our day trip to sunny ‘Brooksbank-On-Sea’!
FRESHERS’ FAIR
YEAR 7S ZONE IN AND SIGN UP!

BROOKSBANK’S ANNUAL FRESHERS’ FAIR IS ALL ABOUT SHOWCASING THE CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH TAKE PLACE AS PART OF OUR OOSH (OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS) PROVISION. AROUND 25 STALLS ARE RUN BY STUDENTS, WHO MARKET THEIR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES. IT’S A BUSTLING, COLOURFUL AFFAIR WITH BANNERS, POSTERS AND LEAFLETS INVITING NEW STUDENTS TO ZONE IN AND SIGN UP!

Clubs for cycling, knitting, Raspberry Pi, astronomy and film drew plenty of attention, Environment Club delivered the “awww!” factor with their cute tortoises and drawing club staged a doodle wall with oodles of doodles!

Students representing English and the LRC, ran several very popular promotions advertising Shelf Life Readers’ Club, Brookesbank into Books, Games Club and Chess Club, which offers the opportunity to play in our hugely successful annual Chess Tournament, beginning in January, 2017. Lucky Chloe Dawson, in 7L, was delighted to win the Roald Dahl Treasure Hunt Competition, run by the LRC.

“It was fantastic to see so many of our new students signing up for lots of new experiences. I’m also proud of the older students for promoting their clubs so well”, said Mr Ball, Head of Year 7.

SUMMER SELFIE COMPETITION GETS US SNAPPING

Everyone loves a selfie, and both students and staff were invited to get snap happy during the summer holidays in order to enter the Geography Department’s holiday inspired, Summer Selfie Competition. We were invited to pose in front of spectacular places, famous landmarks - anywhere in the world – and snap away!

Selfie categories numbered four: Physical Geography selfie (self in front of a spectacular natural feature, such as a mountain or river; Human Geography selfie (self in front of something man-made and magnificent, such as Buckingham Palace or Piece Hall, Halifax; Best Elland Selfie (self-explanatory); Best Yorkshire Selfie (you know the form now!)

Pictures could be added to tweets and posted to @bbsgeography on Twitter or emailed to Mr Webb, for submission into the competition. Ten pound prizes were awarded to the winners who were announced on Geography’s Twitter page in October.

Congratulations to Ethan in 9R, for a winning selfie against the magnificent back drop of Manhattan, NYC and to Nathan, in 8R, for his vertiginous selfie from the Vor Frelsers Kirke, in the Danish capital Copenhagen. Congratulations also to Mrs Washington, in Student Support, for her selfie incorporating the breath-taking Benagil Sea Caves, in Portugal.
After a long but exciting trip down on the coach, the hotel was soon in sight. With Wembley Stadium just next door, and the X Factor studios around the corner, we knew were in ‘the big smoke’!

Following a quick change and freshen up, we all got back on the coach and headed down into town, passing through Oxford Street and Piccadilly down to Planet Hollywood to enjoy the glamour of Hollywood! Juicy American burgers and fries were our top pick with ice cream for afters - yum!

Our next stop was the Duchess Theatre to catch the West End show, ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’. True to its name, everything did go wrong for The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’s 1920s murder mystery with hilarious results. It was non-stop laughs from curtain up to curtain down. What a brilliant first day!

We were up bright early on Saturday morning for a full English before heading to Covent Garden to soak up the atmosphere and check out the shops. Students loved the vibe in this classy meets quirky part of town.

After that we coached up to the Gielgud Theatre for a matinee performance of the ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time’. What an amazing production it was and well worthy of its seven Olivier Awards and five Tony Awards®. Hailed by The Times as, ‘a phenomenal combination of storytelling and spectacle’, it’s a thrilling production - and we loved it too!

Our London visit had been packed with theatre, dining and sight-seeing – an altogether brilliant trip!
SURGE IN CYCLING FOR ALL AT HAMMERSTONES CIRCUIT

HAVE YOU BEEN FOR A SPIN WITH US YET? IT’S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE WE OPENED OUR CYCLE CIRCUIT. DURING THAT TIME WE HAVE WELCOMED THOUSANDS OF CYCLING VISITORS FOR BOTH CURRICULUM AND COMMUNITY SESSIONS.

Our cycling partners, Pedalsport, have also seen a surge in bike riders of all ages, attending their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday sessions.

This increase in participation has also led to a marked increase in quality of riders at the competitive end of the spectrum. British Cycling select the best twenty riders in their regions and invite them onto specific coaching sessions. In the North of England Region, ten of the group are regular riders with Pedalsport Club. It’s even more pleasing to note that two of these youngsters are students at Brooksbank.

Three years ago, student John Culpan was one of Mr Moreman’s cycling group – John was selected to the squad for his road riding ability and has had some excellent results in his first full year of racing, culminating in winning his first race in Sheffield, this summer. John’s enthusiasm is outstanding and his ambitions are to make it to the top and become one of the best trainers in the club.

Ewan Davies moved to Brooksbank from Cardiff just over a year ago and has fitted right in. Already an established cyclist, with good experience in track cycling, Ewan also joined Pedalsport and trains three or four times per week. Ewan is following in the footsteps of the Olympic track cyclists - he has been selected for the track squad and trains at the velodrome in Manchester regularly.

Our third super cyclist is Joe Coukham who excels at cyclo-cross (like track racing, but with added mud!). He is presently performing extremely well in the Yorkshire and National series. Just two weeks ago Joe came 14th in a race in Wales, despite taking a tumble and racing back to secure a good finishing position. We all wish him good luck in his next race.

It’s clear that Brooksbank’s fantastic facility is benefiting a great many riders at all levels of riding. Whilst cycling sessions will quieten down a little over the Christmas period, you can be assured that the enthusiasm for this popular sport will reinvigorate in the New Year.

Community sessions, which are open to anyone of all ages and abilities, take place on Wednesdays between 6 -8pm and Sundays between 10am – 12 noon at £5 per adult and £3 per child under 12.
The ninth English Schools’ Fell Running Championships took place at Howgill Fells, near Sedbergh, Cumbria on Sunday, 25th September.

Ewan Wheelwright, from Year 8, ran in the Year 8 and 9 race, traversing 2.6 miles and climbing 950 feet. Chloe Fisher, Melanie Wood and Sarah Gill, also in Year 8, and Oliver Russon, in Year 11, ran in the Year 10 and 11 race, covered 3.58 miles and climbed 1,315 feet.

Realising it was going to be tough, seasoned fell runner, Ewan described his race: “A fast start was key because the road up to the fell wasn’t the widest. The climb at the beginning didn’t stop till for about 1.5km, where there was a flat and a slight downhill. I tend to be stronger on the up, so I tried to get the best position climbing then hold it on the descent. I approached the ‘green section’ of the route expecting the climb to ease. But no - I came out of the slim part and there it stood in front of me - a huge hill and not a very nice surprise! Just as I thought (with relief) that I’d reached the top, another very steep hill appeared. Great! Even more climbing that I wasn’t expecting. I finally reached the top of that, then there was a final slight ascent and the rest was downhill. Thank goodness! I finished the race feeling absolutely shattered; my chest burned and my nose streamed!”

Like Ewan, a breathless Chloe said, “I found the race hard when I got to the mountain, but when I was running back down it got easier. When I finished, my friends were there supporting me through the finish line. They also gave me a huge hug to say “well done!” Thank you, everybody for supporting me along the way.”

Up for the challenge Melanie said, “The race started at a quick pace, as everyone was eager to get to the front. The climb was 1,315 feet and the mountains were ‘ginormous’. I loved every second of the race - it was a great challenge and an enormous achievement for anybody taking part.”

Nervous starter, Sarah, felt the pride on the home stretch and can’t wait to do it all over again, “On the start line, I was slightly nervous because I wanted to do well. However, my friends were also taking part and were there to support me so that was fine. We climbed all the way to the top. All the spectators were very supportive shouting and cheering us to do our best. I was very proud of my achievement and I would definitely love to participate again in future.”

You can read more posts about Ewan’s fell running adventures on his blog at https://ewanruns.wordpress.com/
SPIRIT OF BROOKSBANK BURNS BRIGHT AT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

As the Autumn term progressed Business Studies tuned in on their second festive Christmas Fayre.

On the night, the Christmas spirit burned bright as local businesses, like Overgate, ran stalls. This year, we were delighted to welcome on board three primary schools: Cross Lane, Elland C of E and All Saints who all lent their support. Students were particularly excited to hear that Mrs Shutter was having a stall! There were Christmas hampers and wreaths, crafting make-and-takes, clothes and artwork to tempt buyers and a kind Santa to hand out Christmas gifts.

With Southern Fried Goujons topping the hot food bill, profits raised will be shared between Overgate and Year 11’s Prom fund. “I’ve really enjoyed sourcing products and planning for this fair. It’s been like a task on The Apprentice!” said Chloe Mallinson and Megan Taylor, in Year 11.

“The students have all worked hard on this Fayre and want to raise as much money for their prom as they can. It’s been great to see the Fayre grow and involve the community,” said Mrs Temelkovski.

KEEPING YOU UPDATED DURING SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

We have seen the first snowfall already and we can expect more wintry weather to come. In the event of snow falling overnight, we will post information about a school closure on our website (www.bbs.calderdale.sch.uk) and on Twitter (@thebrooksbank). We will also send text alerts, to all those who have registered for this service. Additionally, BBC Radio Leeds (92.4 FM and 774 AM) is a good source of information regarding school closures. We ask for your co-operation in not telephoning school in such circumstances. It is important that we keep our lines open for emergency communications only.

Whilst we do our very best to keep school open during severe weather, in extreme circumstances, this may not be possible. If heavy snow falls during the daytime, we may take the decision to send students home early for their own safety. However, any students who are unable to make the journey home may, of course, remain at school until collection arrangements have been made for them.

If you are not already registered with our email and text service, please contact us on 01422 374791 in order to arrange this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>SCHOOL CLOSES</th>
<th>SCHOOL OPENS</th>
<th>SCHOOL CLOSES</th>
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<td>Tuesday 3rd January 2017</td>
<td>SPRING BANK</td>
<td>Friday 26th May 2017</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY HALF TERM</td>
<td>Thursday 16th February 2017</td>
<td>Monday 27th February 2017</td>
<td>SUMMER</td>
<td>Friday 21st July 2017</td>
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<td>MAY DAY</td>
<td>Monday 1st May 2017</td>
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