

01/04/2021

Oasis Academy Brightstowe

Newsletter - Term 3



Welcome to #TeamBRIGHTstowe's latest newsletter.

Every edition of our newsletter is special because it celebrates the wonderful work of our students and staff. This edition is even more special, though, because it celebrates work that took place in the most challenging of circumstances during the lockdown that began on our first day back in January.

Throughout a time of fear and uncertainty for all of us, #TeamBRIGHTstowe worked as one to ensure that every student could access online learning with their Oasis Horizons iPad, that the children of critical workers could come to school each day and that we thought carefully about wellbeing as well as academic learning, so that – as individuals and as a community – we are focused on our recovery from lockdown as we reunite in our building.

This newsletter reflects the generosity, resourcefulness and ambition of our academy. Whatever is happening in the world around us, every member of #TeamBRIGHTstowe is determined that this will be a place of hope, inclusion and love that shines bright for our community.

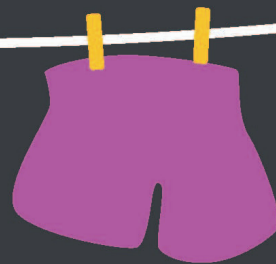
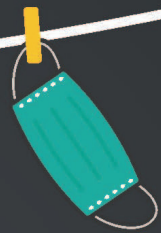
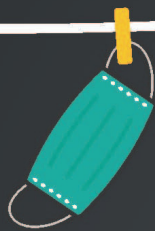
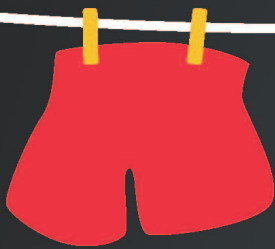
Happy reading!

Alan Dane
Principal



Exceptional Education at the Heart of the Community

TREAT YOUR MASK LIKE UNDERWEAR!



**DO NOT
SHARE IT**

**MAKE SURE
IT IS CLEAN**

Oasis
Academy:
Brightstowe

**DO NOT
BORROW OR
LEND IT**

**MAKE SURE IT
FITS SNUG, BUT
NOT TOO TIGHT**

Covid Testing

A year ago, schools would never have imagined that we would have to become pop-up test centres, but it is a sign of the spirit of our times that all those involved stepped up with remarkable problem solving, positivity and team spirit to do just that.

Brilliantly-led by our excellent Operations Manager, Nic Anstice, we created a lateral flow test centre in our Main Hall. Once the scene of school productions or convivial lunch dining, a mixture of school resources and hi-tech equipment were set up in record time to create a test site for 900 people. Table tennis tables became makeshift booths, sitting alongside medical-grade PPE, lab-style processing and a pop-up reception and test card scanner.

Colleagues from across the whole school supported us, with our main concern that pupils and staff alike would see familiar, friendly faces when they came for their tests. Everyone from our receptionists, to technicians, to teaching staff helped out, and we are so grateful to all involved. During lockdown, we processed staff twice a week, and over the course of the fortnight of pupils coming back to the building 'proper' we tested all our year groups three times. Our teaching staff dealt brilliantly with the disruption to lessons, our pastoral team and senior leadership team did a fantastic job of greeting pupils and taking them to and from the test site, and our wonderful testing staff ran the show with equal measures of professionalism and efficiency, warmth and care.



A big thank you especially goes to our testing team: Jo-Anne Harley, Lewis Nye and Jess Bennett for their leadership of the test centre reception and data processing; Nicki Clark, our Science technician, and chief test processor; Beverley ("Dr Bev") Nightingale our technology technician and chief test assistant; Tasha Bennetts, our Music and Catering teacher; Megan Davey, our Business Apprentice; and last but not least, Nicola Anstice, our operations manager and test site leader. From joking with staff so they feel at ease, to sitting with some anxious pupils and patiently talking them through the process, our testing team were wonderful.

We run a staff 'star of the week' nomination system here at Brightsowe, and we think this nomination for the testing team from one of our colleagues sums up the experience:

From the physical set-up, the delivery, the professionalism, the warmth shown and the assured nature and confidence of their directions, I felt comfortable and confident through the whole process. For such an unnatural, and potentially hazardous process, I feel immensely grateful to them for looking after us as a staff body. Thank you all, it is greatly appreciated.

We have now completed our in school Covid 19 testing. As always it was inspiring to watch the Brightstowe school community pull together and get tested to help keep our school as safe as possible. One in three Covid 19 cases are asymptomatic; Lateral Flow testing can help us to spot these cases. Please do keep testing your child at home with the at-home kits, and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Food donations!

With heartfelt thanks to two generous members of the community we were able to give hampers to our families before the vouchers were sent out to free school meals in January.

Two admin staff went to ASDA and did a bulk buy and were given free bags to put all the food in. The rest of the admin team set to work to make sure all bags were filled straight away so families could pick up the produce quickly.

Thank you ASDA!

Thank you admin team!

Thank you to our two kind members of public!

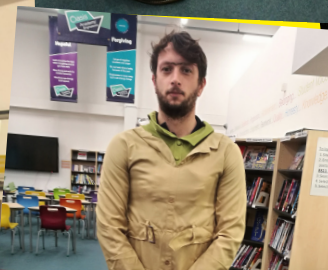
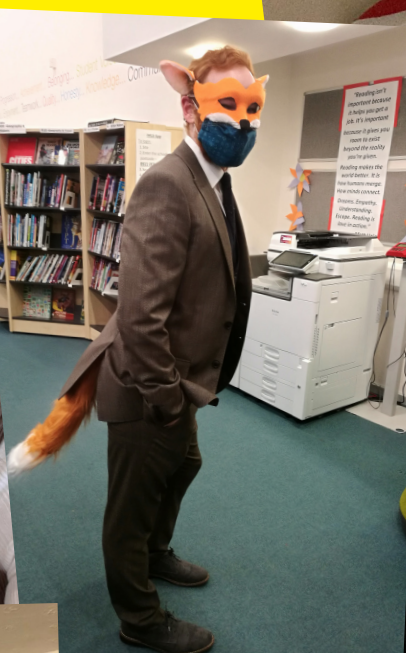
#TeamBRIGHTstowe!



30 bags of food for families!



Another donation of money for meals from COOK on Whiteladies Road!



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Oasis
Academy:
Brightstowe



Library Update

World book day 2021

Despite the majority of students working online from home for this year's World Book Day, we were delighted with the number of students and staff who took part in our celebration of reading. What a brilliant day it turned out to be!

Especially popular was our 'Brightstowe does Audible' activity for students who wanted to sit back, relax and enjoy a selection of short stories read aloud by some of our lovely members of staff. The story time for KS3 and KS4 is still available on the school website.

Thank you to all students who also took part in the Brightstowe World Book Day Challenge that went live on the school's website at 2pm. The Year 7 and 8 students who were in school on WBD attended an excellent, virtual author event with Robert Muchamore – the best-selling author of the Cherub series, who is writing a book series based on the character of Robin Hood but is set in the modern day. There are multiple copies of the book Robin Hood: Hacking, Heists and Flaming Arrows in the library for students to borrow.

Finally, please don't forget to visit the library to read all the entries to our short story competition. We've got some incredible, creative talent amongst our students!

This year's competition winners were:

The Brightstowe World Book Day Challenge

- Jack Barnes (Yr 7)

Student Costume Competition

- Thomas Pickford (Yr 7)
- Jack Barnes (Yr 7)
- Florence Farmer (Yr 8)
- Tamzin Turner (Yr 8)
- Maisie Robinson (Yr 11)

Staff Costume Competition

- Miss Crist (and Foible the dog!)

Short Story Competition

- Esme Faal-Sleath (Yr 7)
- Brooke Bullivant (Yr 8)
- Halle Mitchell (Yr 8)
- Charlie Hill (Yr 11)

The Book Characters' Job Competition

- Millie Wilson (Yr 7)
- Kallen O'Reilly (Yr 8)
- Josh Cook (Yr 8)
- Kyle Perkins (Yr 10)
- Siobhan Power (Yr 10)



Tamzin Turner Year 8



Thomas Pickford Year 7

Library Update

Book of the Month!

The shortlist for this year's Carnegie Medal has been announced and one of the eight books is 'On Midnight Beach' by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick. We think this novel has an excellent chance of winning the most prestigious prize for YA fiction!

1976. It's a summer different to any other.

The days are hot, hot, hot and a dolphin has turned up in Ross Bay. Emer sneaks to the beach at midnight to swim with the wild visitor...and to meet Dog Cullen with his lovely eyes, one green, one blue.

Who cares if a neighbouring town is raging about the fortune 'dolphin fever' brings to Emer's village? Emer has never felt so alive.

But the temperature keeps rising until something dangerous simmers in the air. Suddenly everything – EVERYTHING – seems worth fighting for.



On Midnight Beach - Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick



All books on the Carnegie shortlist are, of course, available to borrow from the library!

If you are in Year 8 or above and would like to be in a book group shadowing this year's award, please let Mrs G-G know!

Bristol Teen Book Award

After being postponed twice, the final of the Bristol Teen Book Award will take place on Wednesday 5th May.

Our Year 9 students who have volunteered to shadow the award are looking forward to an afternoon of fun book activities, an author workshop and a Q&A session with all six shortlisted authors.

We haven't cast our votes yet but watch this space!



Scholarships

Brightstowe's best ever year for scholarships.

Year 11's have been busy applying for our exclusive scholarships to Redmaids High and Colston's Sixth Form. This rigorous application process started before Christmas, when students were asked to express their interest by writing a formal letter. There was a lot of interest this year and all applicants were extremely talented. Redmaids High applicants were then asked to sit verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests and those that scored well were interviewed by the Head, Paul Dwyer, and a school governor.

Colston's applicants were interviewed twice. The first interview was with two Old Colstonians, one of which secured a scholarship in the 1980's. The final interview was with the Head, Jeremy McCullough, and the Head of Sixth Form Sarah Matthews.

The Year 11's that participated in the process should all be very proud as they represented all that is special about Brightstowe as an Academy. Their aspirations and determination has ensured that Brightstowe has had its most successful year in securing scholarships since the programmes began. We are delighted to announce Annie Smith and Sophie-Leigh Mason as scholars at Redmaids High and Freddie Brown, Tianna Lindo, Amy Allen and Natasha Musakasa as Colston's scholars.



REDMAIDS'
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS | BRISTOL



COLSTON'S

Quotes from students

'I have no specific words for how I felt, I didn't use a lot of words when I received the news, I mostly screamed and cried tears of pure joy. I am so proud of myself and all the other applicants too for being a part of the process. I feel like I've been blessed with the opportunity to embody limitless potential and that gives me peace of mind because it wasn't all for nothing.' **Natasha Musakasa**

'Overwhelmed with pride and excitement for the next chapter in my life.' **Tianna Lindo**

'This is pretty cool!' **Freddie Brown**

'A sense of delight and excitement for the next step in my education and where it'll take me.' **Amy Allen**

'I was so excited to find out I had received this amazing opportunity, and excited for what's more to come'. **Annie Smith**

'Proud of my achievement and excited for my new chapter!' **Sophie-Leigh Mason**

Oasis Hub North Bristol

'We are excited to announce our new food club at the Hub House!

Our food club launched in 2021 in partnership with Family Action, Feeding Bristol and FareShare. The food club is all about providing sustainable access to healthy, affordable food and once restrictions allow it will develop further with live cooking demonstrations, taster sessions and food sharing events.

Just a £1 membership fee will secure you a spot each week for a year and then a recurring £3.50 per week for a healthy and sustainably sourced food box (worth £15), that will include a selection of delicious recipes using the different ingredients we have each week.

Get in touch to register! First come, first served to sign up. Limited spaces!

Sadie.fox@oasisuk.org
07410898062

YOUTH WORK

Our youth mentoring team have been working closely with Brightstowe students throughout lockdown with 1:1 Mentoring support. We have also been supporting their pastoral team conducting welfare doorstep visits and supporting with the transition back to school.

FAMILY SUPPORT

A covid winter grant, from Bristol City Council, has allowed us to allocate £16,000 to 72 families supporting them with emergency food and essential needs. We also continue to provide 1:1 support to families struggling with financial, housing, parenting, food and emotional difficulties.

COMMUNITY

We have two exciting, new ventures we wish to share with you!

HUB ZONE - We are developing a new space at Oasis Academy Bank Leaze called the Hub Zone. Once the building work is complete we will be working with parents and staff to develop a range of activities to take place.

HUB HOUSE - 98B Long Cross is soon to become our new hub house. This will become a base for our Hub team and will hopefully also develop into a community venue. Our vision is to provide a shared space where we will develop an exciting range of activities that will explore foods from all around the world. The downstairs space will also be utilised for well-being and arts programmes, and our youth team will continue their vital 1:1 support sessions with young people here.

Keep an eye on our social media and our Hub spring 2021 newsletter for more info!



Foodbank Support for those in work

Low income, plus unexpected expenses, debts, sickness, changes of circumstances or furlough can lead to food poverty even if you are in work

The Foodbank is here to help

To access a referral, speak to Citizens Advice confidentially
Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm - 0808 2082138

Once you have been referred you can collect your food parcel from one of our outlets,
or our Social Justice Hub by appointment. Please call 0117 923 5343
Saturday mornings will also be an option for collection if you work during the week

Our foodbank parcels can include:

- Non-perishable food
- Frozen and chilled food
- Dog or cat food
- Toiletries and sanitary products
- Nappies and baby milk
- Household cleaning items

Appointments with one of our Advice Workers are also available
if you need further support please email advice@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk



0117 9235343

www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk

Social Justice Hub, Avonmouth BS11 9EN

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1147727)
Registered Limited Company Number (8089474)

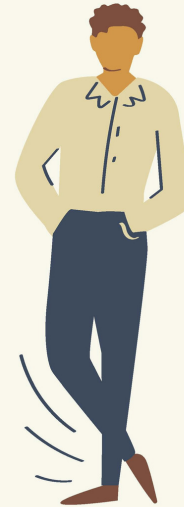


NEED SOME SUPPORT?



SPEAK TO SOMEONE

Speak to a loved one like a family member or friend. Or have a chat with your Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, Tutor or any member of staff.



TALK TO MR CLAYTON

Visit Mr Clayton in The BrightZone between 3:10pm - 4:00pm on Mondays D1-3 (Y7-10).

YOUNG Mi MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

REACH OUT TO YOUNGMINDS

Text YM to 85258



GET IN TOUCH

Sign up to Kooth via the QR code below, or sign up for some sessions with OTR via the QR code below.



@BEBRIGHTSTOWE



The logo for Oasis Academy: Brightstowe is positioned at the top of the poster. It consists of a teal-colored parallelogram containing the word "Oasis" in white, with a stylized white circle to its left. Below this, a dark blue parallelogram contains the words "Academy:" and "Brightstowe" in white. The entire logo is set against a background of radiating yellow and orange stripes.

Oasis

Academy:
Brightstowe

BE

BRAVE

BE

KIND

SHINE

BRIGHT