



Edition 30

Autumn 2

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Welcome to the Broadstones 2025 Christmas edition newsletter!

We'd like to begin by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Pupils and staff are now back in the full swing of learning, with a full range of functional skills qualifications already achieved, as well as preparations for GCSE's very much underway.

In this edition we are pleased to: announce our new newsletter editor, inform you that the hunt is on for our new school ambassador; give details of Remembrance commemorations both in and out of school; and update you with staff and pupil educational endeavours along with the usual curriculum area catchup information.



Remembrance March in Manchester

We are very proud to inform you all that one of our pupils - Kayden - took part in the Manchester Remembrance March in Manchester on 7th November.

It is an honour and a mark of great respect to serve as a standard bearer and is one of the highest achievements, representing both his cadets and Greater Manchester Police.

We are honoured to have such a virtuous pupil in our school.

For images, please see the GMP Facebook page for the Manchester Remembrance March.



Remembrance Poppy Creations in Art

In Art with Rebecca, some pupils worked together to create a poppy waterfall display to help commemorate Remembrance Day.

Using plastic water bottles sourced from around school, the display was inspired by the Tower of London tribute poppies, created by artist Paul Cummings and designer Tom Piper.

The display was hanging from the front of the vale site for Remembrance Day. It looked beautiful and we thank everyone involved in its creation.



The lovely poppy waterfall display



The display from a slightly different angle

Mike - Broadstones new NEU representative

Recently, Mike, our construction teacher, was elected as Broadstones' National Education Union spokesperson.

Mike has been very busy preparing for this role and in his own words, explains his recent visit to London where he met other representatives as well as key figures in education, to learn about the latest developments, policies and changes within education that affect everyone in the education sector:

"I wanted to share an update from the Independent School Conference I recently attended.

The journey down on Friday evening was challenging and ended up taking six hours to get to London, but the conference itself was a great success.

Across the sessions, I learned a lot about the variety of independent education settings, from small schools to large fee-paying boarding schools. We listened to engaging talks covering campaigns in Wales, working time directives, and strategies for supporting support staff.

The main purpose of the conference was to debate and nominate a motion for the National Conference. This year we focused on Motion 3, which proposes an investigation into

strengthening support for an independent members motion.

Finally, the conference concluded with the election of six delegates to represent the independent sector at the National Conference. I did not mention anything about my nomination beforehand as I was quite nervous and didn't expect this outcome, but I am pleased to share that I was elected as one of the delegates.

During the Easter break, I will be travelling to Brighton for the four day National Conference, where around sixteen thousand members will unite. The NEU National Conference is the union's main annual decision making meeting where elected delegates debate and vote on policies, union strategy, and on key issues such as pay, workload, conditions in schools, campaigning priorities and constitutional changes.

On behalf of all staff at Broadstones, we thank Mike for his exceptional commitment, especially using his own time to help make education better for everyone involved. And a massive congratulations for being elected as one of the delegates. Mike's career in education is going from strength to strength and we are lucky to have him on board at Broadstones.



Mike at the event doing us proud

Construction Course Applications

Mike has also been reminding our Y11 pupils of the importance of applying to colleges early, particularly for construction courses, as they are tending to fill up very quickly, already, for next academic year.

A recent article from FE Week highlights the growing skills shortage in construction, engineering and health sectors, with many colleges now halting enrolments due to unprecedented demand.

A reminder to all our Year 11s that now is the time to be applying for courses for next year, or at the very least, become aware of the entry requirements for specific courses. This is so every effort can be made for pupils to have the relevant levels of qualifications needed for their next steps.

Hunt for new School Ambassador

Staff are currently in the process of deciding which of our pupils is best suited to the special role of School Ambassador. In the running are: Millie, Kayden and Lilly-Mai. We wish them all the best of luck - any one of them would make a worthy Broadstones ambassador!



Science with Claire

Ailee, Zanaya, Aaron and James, have been busy extracting an indicator from red cabbage and testing different solutions to determine whether they are acid, alkali or neutral. The indicator changes colour depending on which type of solution it is: red=acid, purple=neutral, blue = alkali.

Meanwhile, several pupils have been using peas and sand to model what happens during the dissolving process. The peas represent the sugar and the sand represents water, and as you can see from the model, the sand will get in between the peas just like when water gets in between the sugar particles to pull them apart making them dissolve. Measuring 50cm³ peas and sand: the sand goes in between the peas so the total is less than 100cm³.



Ailee's experiment with red cabbage indicator



James' and Zanaya's test tubes carrying out the same experiment



Aaron's experimental apparatus

Combining PSHE with Literacy Across the Curriculum

20 minute reading and discussion slots have been integrated into PSHE sessions, designed to provide knowledge of critical topics directly linked to the National PSHE curriculum and recently updated government guidelines.

This half term we have covered the theme of homophobia in society. During these sessions pupils have responded very maturely, showing great insight into the topic. Next half term we shall be tackling the issue of racism in society.

Christmas Meals

PSHE groups arranged their own Christmas meals this year. The Community Centre group opted for a cosy in-house Nandos, delivered to the site and enjoyed by everyone.

The Bungalow Group dined at the Berretto Lounge in Stockport (Redrock). Not quite a traditional Christmas menu but deliciously tasty none-the-less.

The Vale Group opted for traditional seasonal Christmas fayre at a local restaurant. The meal was chosen ethically, demonstrating the importance of eating organic locally grown and sourced produce, whilst supporting local independent businesses, and encouraging sustainable eating.

Alex said: "All the children loved the food, were great ambassadors for the school and as always were extremely polite and well-behaved."

Guest Speaker Kemoy Walker Raises Awareness of Knife Crime

We were honoured to welcome Kemoy Walker to our school, who delivered a powerful and thought-provoking talk on the dangers and consequences of knife crime.

Kemoy shared his personal experiences and insights, highlighting the impact knife crime can have on individuals, families and communities. His engaging and honest approach encouraged our pupils to think carefully about their choices and the importance of making safe, responsible decisions. The session was not only informative but also inspiring, prompting meaningful discussions about personal responsibility, conflict resolution and how we can support one another to prevent violence.

We thank Kemoy for taking the time to speak to our pupils and for helping raise awareness on such an important issue. His message will undoubtedly resonate with our school community for a long time to come.



Steve in Construction

Steve in Construction has been talking to pupils about this year's winner of the Turner Prize.

The Turner Prize is an annual award given by Tate to a British visual artist for an outstanding exhibition or presentation of their work in the previous twelve months. It is one of the world's most famous art honours and is designed to promote public debate about new developments in contemporary British art.

Broadstones focuses a lot on creative endeavours and our pupils are encouraged to take pride and conviction in their talents. And interestingly this year's winner is a young lady, Nuena Kalu, who is severely autistic and non-verbal, demonstrating that everyone, despite their personal challenges can achieve great success when they steadfastly pursue their dreams.

Staff Awareness Training

Broadstones staff are continually (weekly) updating their skills via regular CPD (Continuing Professional Development training), designed to enhance skills, practice, and competence.

During one session this half term, MOSAIC visited to give a

presentation on the current status of drug and alcohol misuse in society. Staff were updated on signs and symptoms to look out for so they are better prepared to care for our pupils.

Just a reminder that MOSAIC works closely with our school, and also works with anyone up to the age of twenty six with drug or alcohol issues, including children and young people affected by parent and carer misuse.

As usual, contact information for MOSAIC can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Staff being updated on the current state of drug and alcohol misuse

Parents and Carers Social Day (with Jackie)

Jackie is organising a parents and carers social day to take place at the end of January, whereby she will discuss their child's progress and attainment in each of their subject areas.

More details to follow at the start of next term...

Meanwhile, Jackie organised for a sexual health awareness speaker to visit us and advise our Post 16 pupils, in December. This will also be rolled-out to the rest of our pupils in the new year.

Staff Annual Christmas Celebrations



Staff this year were treated to a lovely meal at the Wargeh in Heaton Moor.

The Wargeh offers a diverse range of cuisine from Europe, the Middle East and Persia.

The food was truly delicious and everyone had a wonderful time.

And we thank John and Sue for this lovely annual celebration.

New Newsletter Editor

And last but by no means least, we would like to announce that Izzy (Isabelle more formally known) a relatively new Year 10 pupil has shown such promise and potential that she was awarded with the position of: Official Broadstones Newsletter Editor.

She has already begun working with Davina to edit our newsletters and we thank her for her contribution.



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