broadstones Newsletter

Edition 33 Summer 1 May 2026

Welcome to the Broadstones Summer 1 half term newsletter!

It's been a particularly busy half term, with preparing for, and sitting internal and external exams, completing qualifications, and ensuring Year 11 are ready for their important next steps.

In this edition, we cover details of: the parents and carers events that took place; the green-fingured endeavours of two of our pupils; the St. George's Day celebrations; how pupils are helping prepare the new school site; the development of our new outdoor learning area; as well as the usual curriculum catch-up information. And there's also a reminder of a few key dates.

And, in an exciting new twist - we have added a new astrological dimension to our newsletters for those of us that believe our destiny is depicted, even predetermined via the positionings of the stars in the sky and that those predictions can be found by reading our horoscopes. This edition will begin by reminding us all where we fall on the astronomical scale in terms of our particular dispositional characteristics . A load of rubbish? Or, an excellent means of finding value in the introspection and reassurance astrology can provide. And importantly, another opportunity to get us all reading!

Parents / Carers Open Day

April 23rd was the day we held our annual school open day.

Parents and carers were invited into school to talk to their child's individual teachers, and be given full academic feedback on their progress and next steps.

As always, attendance at the event was excellent. These occasions are very important because we all know that the best way to improve academic attainment is to ensure parents and carers are an integral part of the learning journey.

Parents / Carers Social Event

Following previous successful events, another social event took place on May 6th, at Houldsworth Golf Club.

This was a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to meet with pastoral staff and members of the senior leadership team.

A great opportunity to share information with each other as well as listening to visiting speakers such as the: educational psychologist, The Growth Company and Pure Innovations.

Information was given on important areas of school life, including: Outreach provision, attendance, academic and pastoral information; as well as details of the proposed new plans for adult evening classes on a range of vocational and academic subjects. Also, reminders were given on where parents and carers can find help on a range of issues.

These types of events are really important as they are proven to help build communities, foster trust, and strengthen home-school partnerships - all of which directly improves student wellbeing and academic outcomes.

The lovely venue at the golf club

A Special Mention - Bella

Also amongst the guest speakers at the parents / carers event was Bella, who spoke of her inspirational journey through education to now running her own successful business in partnership with Broadstones.

Some of you may remember Bella from one of our previous newsletters. She contacted John and Sue earlier in the year to discuss a business proposition, which Sue and John agreed to.

Bella is a fantastic example of one of Broadstones' success stories. She was very disheartened with the education system until she came to Broadstones, who, step-by-step helped her to rebuild trust in education, and ultimately in confidence, to eventually be able to venture out and carve out a successful business in the hair and beauty industry.

Bella's journey has been long but through hard work and sheer determination - she is now established in her dream career.

Bella at the parents / carers event talking about her journey

Bella at the salon preparing for a shift, with Claudia

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We're Rooting for Mohin and James

They say that gardening keeps you grounded and it's true. Mohin (Year 10) and James (Year 11) have now begun to see the fruits of their labour pay off.

We recently mentioned how Nicola is working with the boys, who are like two peas in a pod when it comes to fighting the chilli weather - to plant and cultivate vegetables in a designated plot on site.

Nicola said: "Nothing beets the feeling of producing vegetables that look radishing. With so mushroom to grow, it's great to stop being a couch potato, so lettuce all celebrate the good times with these crispy, crunchy crops."

Nicola also mentioned that the only way she can think of to improve the experience is to introduce the boys to The Blackeyed Peas whilst plotting their next patch. (Although it could be argued that the Red Hot Chilli Peppers would be a better choice).

Ravishing radishes grown by James

Ravishing radishes grown by Mohin

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St. George's Day Celebrations

As part of our endeavour to raise awareness of different cultures and cultural traditions, pupils and staff had the chance to eat traditional St. George's Day fayre at the end of April.

Celebrated annually (23rd April) Saint George was the Patron Saint of England who died in 303AD.

Best known for dragon slaying, St. George is also featured in traditions such as flying the traditional English flag, as well as wearing red roses, and for special church services to celebrate the event.

Of course, there never was a slayed dragon as the story is just a myth denoting the fight between good and evil but nevertheless the food offered was real - traditional, hearty and filling. On the menu was: fish & chips; cottage pie; bangers and mash (Cumberland and Lincolnshire sausages); cheese and vegetable pie - all served with chips, peas or gravy.

For those who preferred their own idea of a traditional meal - there was a vast selection of pasta bowls, jacket potatoes and sandwiches available as usual.

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Supporting the Development of the New School Site (Amy - Sport)

Pupils have been involved in helping to prepare parts of the new school site, giving them a chance to play an active role in this exciting development of the school's future.

As part of this work, pupils have been planting new trees around the site, learning about the importance of caring for the environment, and how trees contribute to local wildlife and green spaces. It has been a fantastic opportunity for them to connect with nature while contributing something lasting to the school grounds.

In addition, pupils have worked together to help clear a pathway leading towards the area where the new school building will be placed. This has involved: teamwork, planning, and a real sense of pride as they see the space gradually taking shape.

It has been wonderful to see pupils so engaged in helping to prepare the new site, and we are looking forward to seeing how the area continues to develop over the coming months.

One of the spaces cleared and planted with trees

Pathway cleared in preparation for construction to take place

Important clearing of weeds ready for further planting of trees

Developing Our Outdoor Learning Area (Amy - Sport)

Also, this term, pupils have been busy helping to develop our outdoor learning area, creating a special place where they can learn, explore, and spend time in nature.

It has been wonderful to see everyone getting involved and taking pride in shaping an area that they can use for both learning and relaxation.

Pupils began by clearing away weeds and tidying the space, working together to prepare the area so it could be used more effectively. Through this process, they learned about teamwork, responsibility and caring for the environment.

As part of the project, pupils have started creating their own outdoor furniture. Using tools and materials, they have been making chairs and tables which will allow us to carry out activities and lessons in the outdoor area. This has been a great opportunity for pupils to develop basic craft and practical skills while working on a project they can see come to life.

Alongside the development of the space, we have also introduced regular nature walks down to Reddish Vale Country park. These walks give pupils the chance to observe seasonal changes, notice wildlife, and enjoy some calm time outdoors while building their awareness of the natural world.

We are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm pupils have shown while helping to create this area, and we look forward to continuing to develop it for future outdoor learning activities.

Local swans and ducks at the local pond

A heron, another local resident

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Subject Area Catch-Up with Davina

Our Literacy link with PSHE continued this half term with our pupils being taught about classism.

This link is part of a wider strategy to get our young people reading more, while providing key information on very important issues in society such as: misogyny, racism, homophobia, classism, ageism and will finish, in our final half term with disablism.

Also during PSHE, pupils have been working towards qualifications such as: Sustainability, Sport, and Employability, as well as following the national curriculum.

Important GCSE

Update

GCSE season is now in full swing. Some of our pupils have been working towards a range of different GCSE qualifications, with some Year 11s having already sat some of the exams.

We remind parents and carers to encourage their child to engage in regular revision, particularly over the May half term holiday.

If at all possible, please try to provide a quiet space and time so your child can revise effectively and increase their chances of achieving grades that match their full potential.

We wish all candidates the very best - they should all be very proud of the hard work and preparation over the last few years.

Science With Claire

Some pupils including Brooke and Oliver have been testing foods to find out if they contain starch, fats, proteins or glucose. (To establish their nutritional content).

In order to test for starch they added iodine solution which turns the solution to blue-black if starch is present.

To test for fats, ethanol was added and this turned the solution cloudy, alternatively if the solution is rubbed onto

filter paper, it turns transparent.

The test for sugar involved adding benedict's solution before placing it into a water bath, turning the solution red, orange, yellow or green.

Finally, biuret solution is added to test for protein and this in turn, turns the solution purple.

Brooke and Oliver's food experiment

Meanwhile, Calvin has been looking for clues to determine if a chemical reaction occurred; a key scientific process as they enable new substances and biological processes to form.

The result was changes in colour, in temperature and in fizzing.

Calvin's chemical reaction experiment

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Key Date Reminders

Just a reminder of a few key dates between now and the end of the academic year:

1) **The Broadstones Presentation Evening** will take place: Thursday, June 18th, 6pm - 10pm at Houldworth Golf Club.

   The theme is The Greatest Showman, which celebrates individuality and uniqueness, and a reminder that pupils are able to bring 2 guests each.

2) **Year 11 official leaving date:** Thursday, June 18th 2026.
3) **Inset Day**: 22nd June 2026 (no pupils in school that day).
4) **6 Week Summer Holiday begins:** Friday 17th July at 1pm. (Return: Thursday 3rd September 2026).

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"Welcome to our new regular star-sign feature. For those who believe - keep on believing, for tho who are sceptical - read on, you might just find they offer a psychological tool for reflection, comfort and entertainment.

Let's start in this issue with identifying your own starsign and associated characteristics. Do the align with your estimation of yourself? Ask others if they can s those characteristics in you. Can y see their characteristics in them?

Let's get reading, analysing and talking!!!"

So, the 12 star signs are categoriz by four elements—Fire, Earth, Air and Water—which define their cor energy and general approach to lif While every person is a complex m of their entire birth chart, their "Sun Sign" typically represents the

outward personality and primary motivations.

Fire Signs: Passionate and Dynamic

Known for their enthusiasm, boldness, and high energy, Fire signs are the "doers" of the zodiac.

- **Aries** (Mar 21 – Apr 19): Courageous, ambitious, and direct. They are natural leaders who dive into challenges but can be impulsive.
- **Leo** (Jul 23 – Aug 22): Confident, creative, and warm. They enjoy the spotlight and are known for their loyalty and theatrical flair.
- **Sagittarius** (Nov 22 – Dec 21): Adventurous, honest, and free-spirited. They value freedom and philosophy but can be flighty or tactless.

Earth Signs: Practical and Grounded

Earth signs are the "builders," focused on stability, hard work, and tangible results.

- **Taurus** (Apr 20 – May 20): Steady, loyal, and comfort-loving. They are incredibly reliable but can be notoriously stubborn.
- **Virgo** (Aug 23 – Sep 22): Detail-oriented, practical, and thoughtful. They strive for perfection and are highly organized, though often self-critical.
- **Capricorn** (Dec 22 – Jan 19): Determined, responsible, and grounded. They are goal-oriented and disciplined, sometimes appearing unforgiving.

Air Signs: Intellectual and Social

Air signs prioritize ideas, communication, and social connection.

- **Gemini** (May 21 – Jun 20): Curious, adaptable, and social. They are quick-witted and versatile but may struggle with inconsistency.
- **Libra** (Sep 23 – Oct 22): Diplomatic, charming, and fair. They seek balance and harmony but can be indecisive.
- **Aquarius** (Jan 20 – Feb 18): Independent, original, and visionary. They are deep thinkers focused on humanitarian goals, though they can seem detached.

Water Signs: Intuitive and Emotional

Water signs are the "feelers," deeply connected to their emotions and the subconscious.

- **Cancer** (Jun 21 – Jul 22): Nurturing, intuitive, and protective. They are deeply loyal to their loved ones but may be guarded or uncommunicative.
- **Scorpio** (Oct 23 – Nov 21): Intense, insightful, and loyal. They possess great passion ar resourcefulness, though they can be secretive or jealous.
- **Pisces** (Feb 19 – Mar 20): Empathetic, imaginative, and gentle. They are highly roman and sensitive but may be pron to escapism.

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