

HALF TERM 2  
DECEMBER - 2022

# NEWSLETTER



THE  
**BRIAN CLARKE**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



## A MESSAGE FROM ALLISON

It has been a wonderful first term. Our founding cohort make us proud every single day with their kindness and phenomenal work ethic. They are absolutely living out our mission statement of Ambition, Excellence and Community.

This final week has culminated in lots of activities where we have come together as a school community to celebrate all that has been achieved.

Delivering the hampers to those who make a difference day in day out or who are in need was a wonderful way to finish off the year and epitomises everything we stand for.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you, our founding parents for your support of the school - your children are thriving. It absolutely takes a village to raise a child.

You can see a sample of all the wonderful experiences documented below that your children have experienced made possible by the commitment and dedication of all the staff at Brian Clarke.

Wishing you all a restful Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Allison Ash, Headteacher

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



## Co-Curricular – Culture Club

This term our amazing German linguists have made and decorated papier mâché lanterns to celebrate St Martin's Day. They have also taken a trip to Manchester to visit the Christmas markets using their German to communicate with the stall holders. One stall holder was so impressed with them trying to speak to him in German, he gave them some Apfelstrudel to try for free!! Most recently, our culture clubbers have run a German Christmas bake sale in school. They produced and put up posters in school and went into forms to promote the bake sale. All proceeds from the sale went to the house charities



To celebrate Advent and Christmas, the MFL department ran a competition to design a Christmas card in a foreign language. Pupils had to design a card which showed the Christmas traditions of another country. All entries had to be completed by hand and we were looking for originality of illustration as well as accuracy of language and content. All entries were of such an impressive standard it was very difficult for the judges to narrow it down to the top three. Hopefully the winning card will be winging its way to you all very soon.



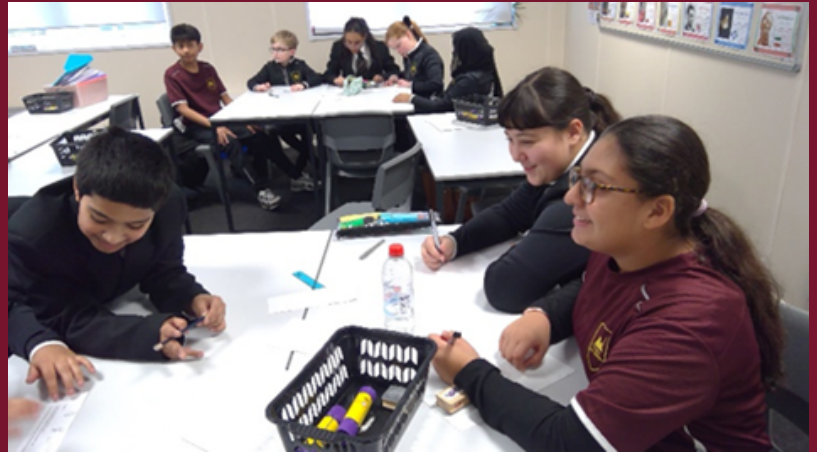
Christmas charity bake sale- On Wednesday 7th December, the culture clubbers became market stall holders selling the beautifully baked German biscuits and cakes which were kindly baked/donated from our lovely Year 7s. The event was so popular on Wednesday that we had to open up the stall again on Thursday! The pupils and staff had to speak in German to ask for the biscuits they wanted to buy and how much they cost and the culture-clubbers responded back to them in German as if they all were in a real-life situation in Germany.



# Maths & Code

## Maths Challenge Club

Our Maths superstars at Maths Challenge club have been working hard solving challenging and complex problems. Working together as a team, students collaborated to solve murder mysteries, win 'Pointless' quizzes and succeed in Mathematical relay races. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding learning environment for all! Our pupils are ambitious and a pleasure to teach.



## Code Club


At Code Club we celebrated World Hello Day by creating online greetings cards through the SCRATCH platform. Pupils coded their own animated greetings cards utilising 'hello' in different languages and putting their coding skills to practice. Congratulations to Jaden whose winning design was sent off to be shared with another Code Club somewhere in the world. We are looking forward to receiving a card from another Code Club soon! Some of the designs can be seen below:



# Newspaper

Our special Christmas edition of our school newspaper 'The Brian Clarke Way' is now published. You may access a copy using the link below. Our pupils have worked extremely hard honing their skills in writing for a specific purpose. This edition has been edited by guest editors, G.Ward and A.Sharif.

*School Newspaper - December Edition - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy (brian-clarke.org)*



# The Brian Clarke Way

Issue #1  
Friday 16th  
December

Reporters: I. Broadbent, H. Subhani, C. Burgess

## All Change (Again)!


Editor: G. Ward  
Assistant Editor: A. Sharif

### A New Prime Minister for Number 10!

"This woman's not for turning!"  
Margaret Thatcher.

"This woman's not for turning up!"  
Truss' Opponent.

"I definitely don't want to be Prime Minister!"  
Rishi Sunak.





Rishi Sunak, our new Prime Minister, takes over as Liz Truss resigns after ONLY 45 days in office.

Rishi has set the bar, becoming a role model in our diverse country as he takes the stand as the U.K.'s first British Asian Prime Minister.

He is the 56<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister in the UK. Also, not only is he the youngest PM in over 100 years, he is also known as the richest MP – richer than the King - with a net worth of £730 million. When asked if he would ever want to be Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak replied, "God no. Definitely not, seeing what a Prime Minister has to deal with", showing he never planned to be Prime Minister.

Yet, here he stands in No.10. Good Luck, Prime Minister Sunak!



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
A 60p iceberg lettuce outlived Liz Truss!  
A video was posted on YouTube about it and got over 20,000 views.

---

Mrs Robinson is delighted to announce our Brian Clarke family Christmas has begun!!!!

Our first ever school trip to the pantomime is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and will be the best school trip of all time. Christmas events will be hosted all over school fit for each and every pupil. These will include: Christmas hampers ,charity events ,the pantomime and much more along the way.

Every form will create a Christmas hamper including sweets, chocolate and many things more! Once every form has created a hamper, we will give it to a person in the local community who has helped or supported the Brian Clarke community! And don't stress it if you don't celebrate at home, this year at Brian Clarke we are celebrating Christmas as a community where we ensure all our students enjoy it the festive season to the fullest, religious or not.


Of course, we can't tell you everything yet, wouldn't that ruin the fun.

!!!!HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!!

Reporters: M. Griffin, Lillie Gregory, P. Okundaye

## First Family Christmas

### Celebrating with the Brian Clarke Community



---

### Quote of the day

Inspiring daily

Asking for help isn't giving up, its refusing to. 😊

### Verse of the Year

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.

This is the first and the greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:  
'LOVE your NEIGHBOUR as yourself.'


Matthew 22:37-39

### Scoop of the Day

The latest updates

#### Remembrance

Remembrance Day is really important to our community because of the soldiers who fought in the war for us. We need to remember them because we do not want another war like that to happen so let us bow our heads in respect.



# Physical Education

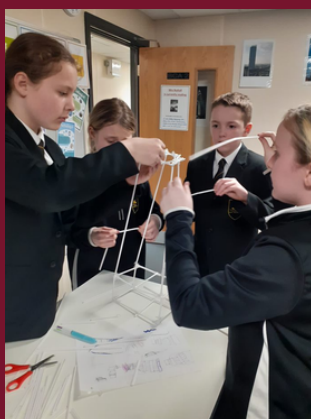
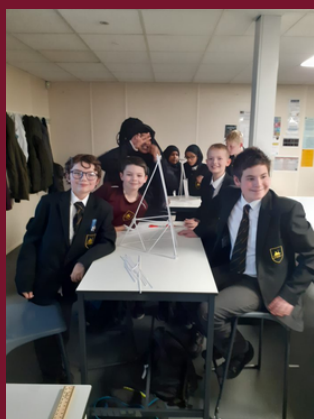
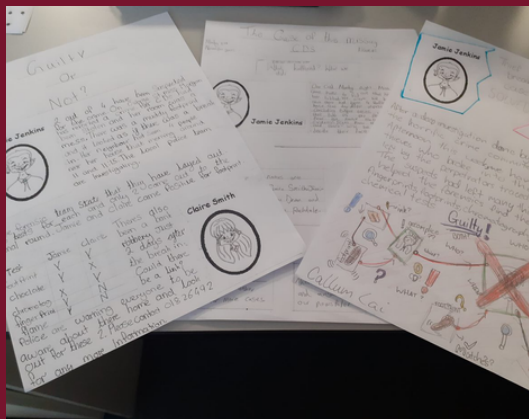
This has been another action packed half term for PE. We have now had so many students represented Brian Clarke Academy and it is truly wonderful to see our students flourishing and showcasing their abilities, impeccable behaviour, and attitude to each fixture. It has been an absolute pleasure seeing the wonderful excitement that this brings, and we can't wait for this to continue. Over the first term we have attended over 23 different events/fixtures ranging from Football and Netball to Cross-country, Table Tennis and bowling and Basketball. It really demonstrates our mission statement of wanting our students to be everything they can and everything they are meant to be.



# Science

## Forensics Club!

This term, the forensics club have continued to develop their laboratory and investigative skills to bring their case to a close! We have carried out flame tests, extraction of DNA from fruits, chromatography and even made sample burglar alarms! We even made newspaper articles reporting our findings. In the end, two out of four of our suspects were found guilty based on the evidence we had collected over the last term.

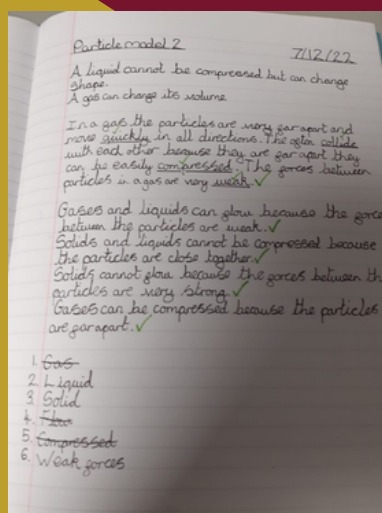
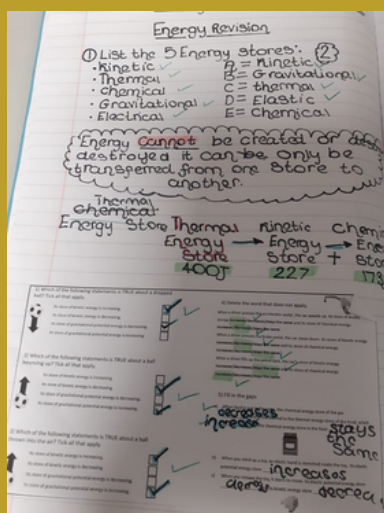


## House STEM Challenge

This half term, we held our first house competition! Teams from each form were challenged to build the tallest tower that would support a chocolate bear using limited resources and in only 20 minutes! There were some fantastic towers and brilliant displays of resilience and teamwork. Well done to all who took part!

## House STEM Challenge

This half term, we held our first house competition! Teams from each form were challenged to build the tallest tower that would support a chocolate bear using limited resources and in only 20 minutes! There were some fantastic towers and brilliant displays of resilience and teamwork. Well done to all who took part!

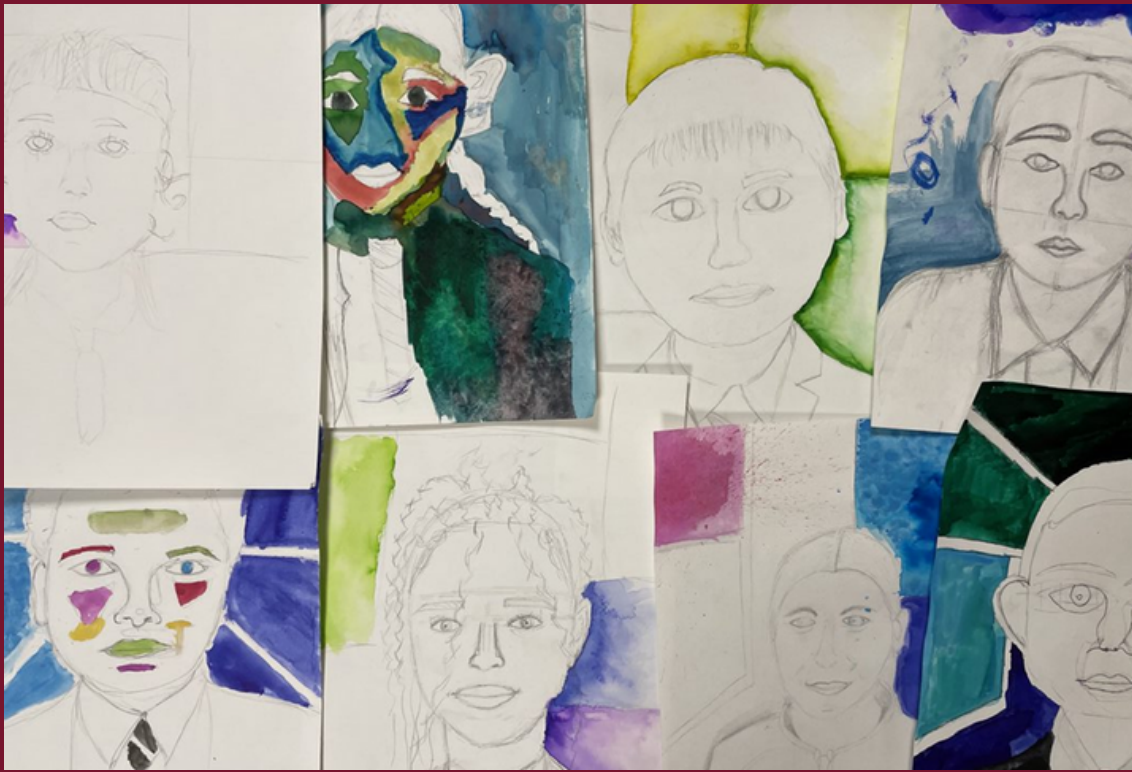


## Outstanding work!

Pupils continue to impress us with their hard work and dedication in science. This term, we have been learning about energy stores and energy transfers and the particle model of matter. These are challenging but extremely important topics in science and pupils have shown determination throughout. We have also had some very interesting questions about what particles are made of! Well done everybody!

# Art Department

Over this past term the students have been looking at portraiture, exploring and refining a broad range of skills in a variety of materials and processes. All students have now begun working on their final self-portrait, influenced by fauvism, which is characterised by strong colours and expressive marks.



## Vincent Van Gogh

“People say ‘and I’m quite willing to believe it – that it’s difficult to know oneself – but it’s not easy to paint oneself either.’”

“Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear” painted by the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh in 1889. The painting captures Van Gogh’s mental suffering. His informal attitude when he introduced himself to his left ear (the fellow artist Paul Gauguin) is one of the reasons that inspired Van Gogh to paint and bring forth his mental illness. The painting shows that for some individuals, a mental illness could enhance their creativity and art in a way that is unique to each their painting.

Van Gogh’s self-portrait shows the state of mind of him and allows the audience a glimpse into his mind. In this portrait Van Gogh portrays himself as a figure and a lone figure. The bandaged ear shows his dark psychological state that often leaves him struggling unable to control his level of emotion, dangerously leading him to self-harm.

Van Gogh’s self-portrait is still and calm when Gogh feels as if a nightmarish inner pain. His forehead is dark and his eyes are pale along with his back of pale, emotion, and his face is dark and a sense of despair. The sense of isolation and sadness from this painting could mean that he is aware of how his mental illness changed his personality. The fact that Van Gogh has shown the face in his painting is a sign of his mental illness and captures the face in his painting. This is also supported by how he painted himself as pale and worn out.

The back of painting of himself is how depressed and lonely he felt.

Van Gogh has chosen to include the Japanese print which hangs on the wall in his self-portrait to highlight his passion and innovation for art. His use of landscape and warm colors instead of dark tones suggests the idea that painting is his attempt of self-healing and a temporary escape from suffering.

With each painting Van Gogh is desperately trying to live with each painting is another attempt to not himself of the anguish and torment existing in his head and replace it with art and talent.

“Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear” may be regarded as evidence of Van Gogh’s attempt to deal with his mental disorder.

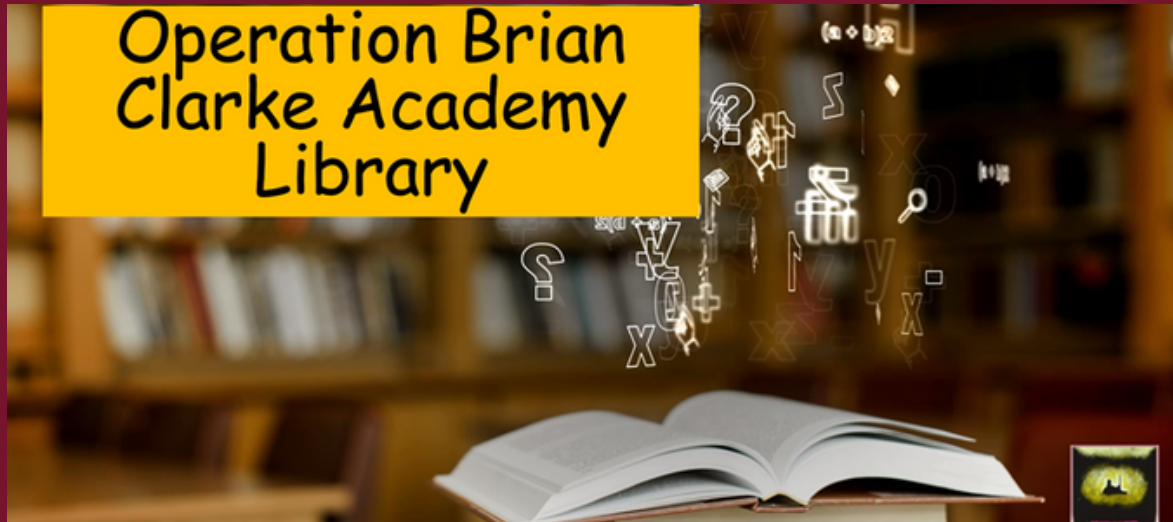
His mental illness was an impediment to his work and often deterred him away from his art and talent - however it also gave him creative inspiration after every period of instability.

“Paintings have a life of their own that derives from the painter’s soul!”



# Literacy

This half term we launched: Operation Brian Clarke Academy Library. All students are being asked for their input into what kind of books/genres they'd like to see in the library at our new school building. They are also being asked their ideas on what they'd like the space to look like. All ideas need to be submitted in the box in BCA6 by Friday 13th January.



## Register, Read and Respond

This half term, students have finished reading the Odyssey with their Form Tutors and have moved onto a selection of books which will help them to learn about how modern Britain became a diverse place, and to celebrate this. Our new Form Tutor books are:

**Now or Never** by Bali Rai

**After the War** by Tom Palmer

**Empire's End** by Leila Rasheed





# Head of Year

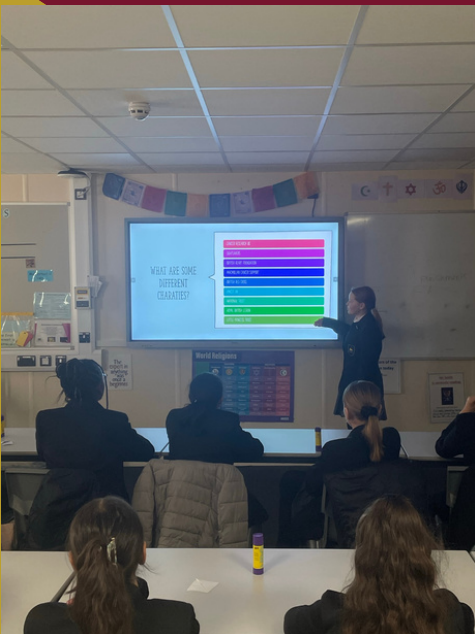
## Pantomime

We had a wonderful time at the pantomime last week where all students went to watch Robin Hood at the Oldham Coliseum. Students did us proud whilst there acting extremely sensibly and had an amazing time!



## House Charities

This half term our wonderful House Captains and Vice Captains delivered presentations about Charity including what this is and why it is important. The presentations were amazing and students delivered the presentations with clarity and maturity. This really helped to educate everyone on why charity is extremely important to us at Brian Clarke. We then asked forms to vote for a charity that they wanted to raise money for and then Captains and Vice Captains met and counted up the votes to work out the winning charities for each house. The charities chosen are Reuban's Retreat, Cancer Research and the NSPCC. We are very much looking forward to raising money next year for our house charities and making a difference to our community.



# Celebration Assembly

Today we celebrated the students and all their achievements at our Celebration Assembly. We are extremely proud of all our students and how far they have come applying the school ethos everyday.



# Other News



**THE BRIAN CLARKE**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## Co-Curricular Clubs - Jan - May 2023

Mon	CODE (JST)		FOOTBALL (MBR)		Table Tennis (EGA)		
		DRAMA (JSM/RDI)		Graphic Novel Art (JCO)		Culture (CWO)	
Tues	BCA NEWSPAPER (AHU)		NETBALL (AHA)		British Sign Language (FBR)		
		Forensics (GNU)		Fitness Gym (MBR)			
Wed	CAD Engineering and Design (MHA)		Earth & Space Club (GNU)		MULTI SPORTS (AHA)		
		Rugby Club Boys (JCO)		MATHS CHALLENGE (EGA)			
Thur	British Sign Language (FBR)		DEBATE (RDI)		MULTI SPORTS (AHA)		
		CHOIR JSM		CAD Engineering and Design (MHA)		Read Around The World Club (AHU)	

SCHOOL RE-OPENS	Tuesday 3rd January
FLU VACCINES	Wednesday 4th January



[www.twitter.com/BrianClarkeAcad](http://www.twitter.com/BrianClarkeAcad)



[www.facebook.com/BrianClarkeAcad](http://www.facebook.com/BrianClarkeAcad)



[www.brian-clarke.org](http://www.brian-clarke.org)