

HALF TERM
FEBRUARY - 2023

NEWSLETTER



THE
BRIAN CLARKE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



A Message From Allison.

It has been yet another fantastic half term at the Brian Clarke Academy. Students are living the mission statement of Ambition, Community and Excellence daily. I am delighted with how polite and well-mannered students are around the school. It's a pleasure to visit lessons and watch students purposefully engaging in their learning.

Attendance and Punctuality

A huge thank you to parents supporting attendance and punctuality to school. We have the joint highest overall attendance in Oldham at Year 7. Excellent attendance is key to ensuring your child can reach their full potential. At Brian Clarke the curriculum is a 5-year progression model. Any missed learning can create gaps in learning. We absolutely recognise that students do get poorly. If your child is absent for any reason, they are able to access all prior resources on the learning platform. If you are experiencing difficulties getting a child into school, please talk to a member of our pastoral team.

Thank you for attending the parents/carers evening. It's been wonderful to be able to share with you how well your child is progressing at Brian Clarke.



A Message From Allison Continued.....

Online setting of Homework

After February half term teachers will be setting homework for students online. We have successfully distributed over 40 electronic devices to families over the last 4 months to facilitate this move. Students are still very keen to use their planners to record their homework so we will be using both methods moving forward to help with the transition in the longer term. Students can view details of their homework and the due date online through their Outlook Calendar or the Assignments section of Microsoft Teams. Students have been shown how to do this, but a link to a 3 minute 'how to' video is also below.

Accessing Homework Online - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy (brian-clarke.org)

Student Voice Questionnaire

Understanding how our young people are experiencing school and the challenges they face both inside and outside of school is extremely important. At Brian Clarke we are educating and supporting our young people to be good neighbours and citizens as well as navigate life challenges.

During their computing lessons all students filled in a student voice questionnaire. Some of the results are below:

- 85% enjoy school
- 91% of students enjoy their learning at Brian Clarke
- 99% of students know how to behave well in school
- 97% say that teachers help them to do their best
- 99% say that my school encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds and treat everyone equally
- 93% would recommend Brian Clarke to a friend or family
- 90% say that any bullying/fall outs are dealt with quickly, effectively and consistently
- 90% say they have a trusted adult who they can speak to if they are upset
- 98% say the school encourages them to take additional responsibilities (eg leadership awards, competitions, charity work)

We would of course love every response to be 100% and we are working hard to improve on all aspects of school life. Students were also able to leave qualitative comments about aspects of school life that they would like improved or any concerns they had. We will be following these up with student focus groups next half term and I will be able to update you on this in the next newsletter.

Parent/Carer Forum

Thank you again to all parents that completed the parent questionnaire and for those parents that have volunteered to take part in the focus group moving forward. We had 54 volunteers. We are randomly selecting 8 parents/carers from this list to serve for a year on the focus group. These parents will meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team once a term. We will rotate the parents/carers in the group each academic year so that different parents and carers have the opportunity to take part.

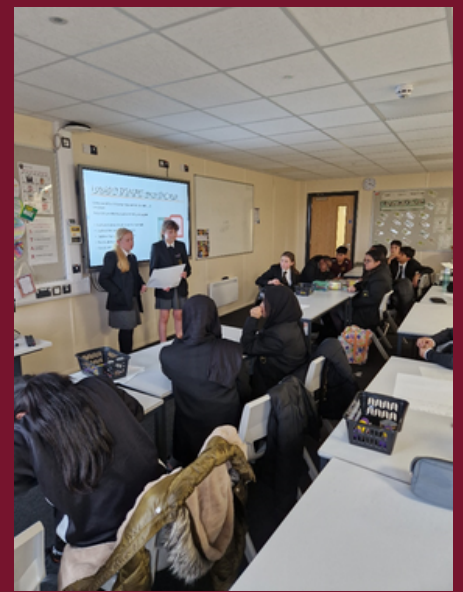
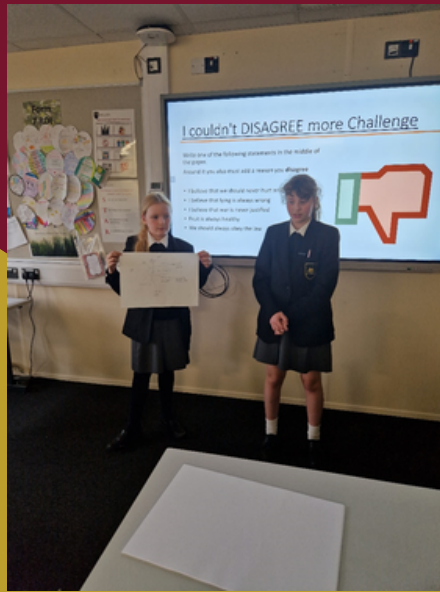
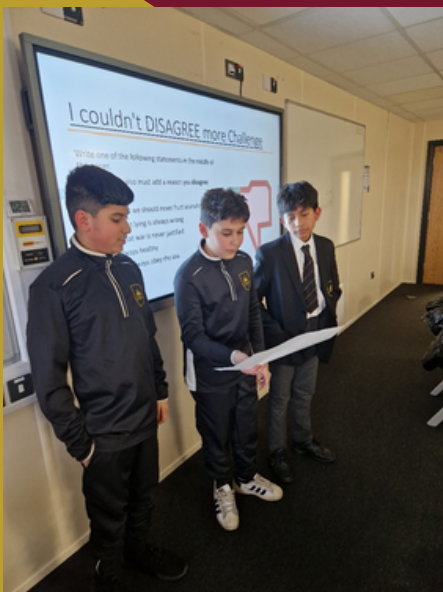
This group does not scrutinise policy/outcomes - that is the job of Governance. Its' main role is to be a supportive voice of the school, to gather parental/carers feedback and views on how the school is progressing.

Co-Curricular

We have so many positive role models who are aspiring to develop their leadership skills. Here we have four of our students who are leading a task in Citizenship; they are modelling examples of their work using the visualiser. Our students consistently demonstrate our values of ambition, excellence, and community.



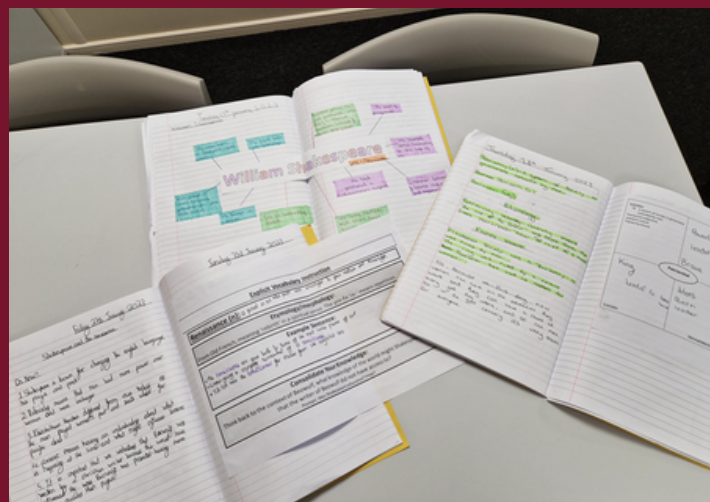
In Debate club the students have been developing their arguments collaboratively and then presenting them to the rest of the group for a discussion. The students did an amazing job at thinking deeply about their arguments making sure they had counter points to make... We definitely have future politicians and leaders in our midst!



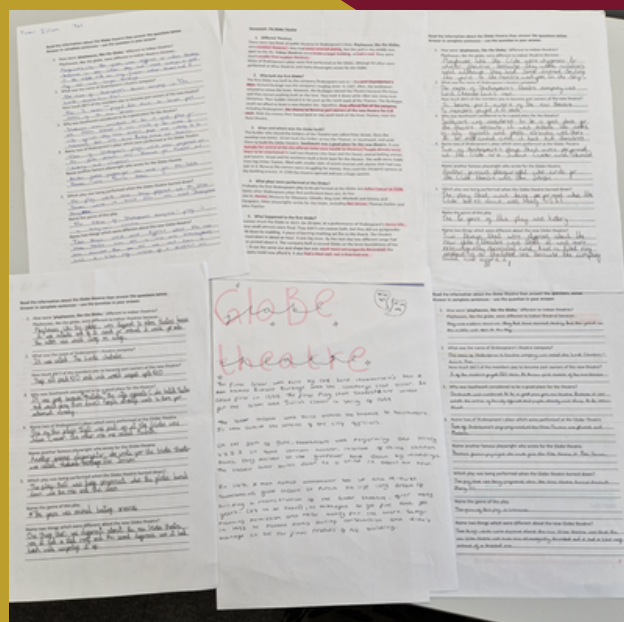
English

This half term in English our students have been studying the life and times of Shakespeare. They have gained powerful knowledge about the social and historical context of the Elizabethan and are learning many facts about what makes Shakespeare one of the literary greats. They will continue to build on this knowledge as they progress to next half term, exploring 'The Tempest.'

Students have explored and debated the role of women during this time, focusing on patriarchy. This led to many passionate discussions that link to modern perceptions surrounding the role of women. We certainly have classrooms full of amazing young minds, with empathetic attitudes ready for the world beyond the classroom in the 21st century. It was a pleasure to listen to their opinions.



Students were asked to think of questions they would like to ask Shakespeare. So, we took part in hot-seating and posed some tricky questions to our classroom bard!



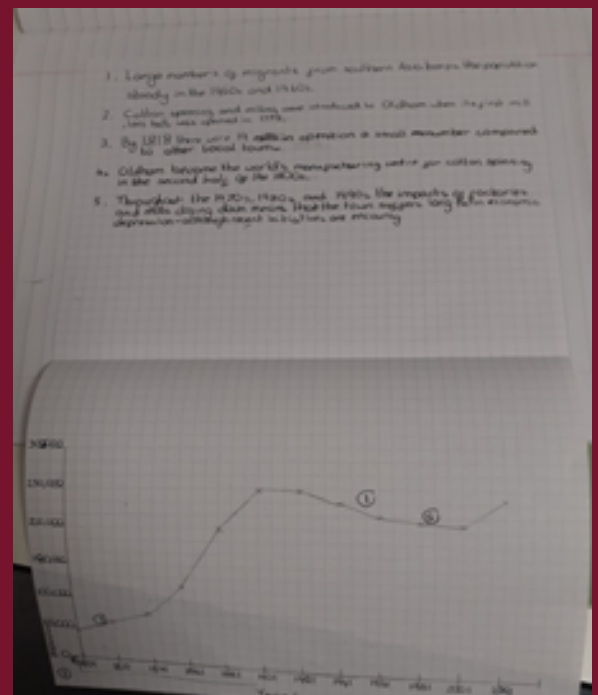
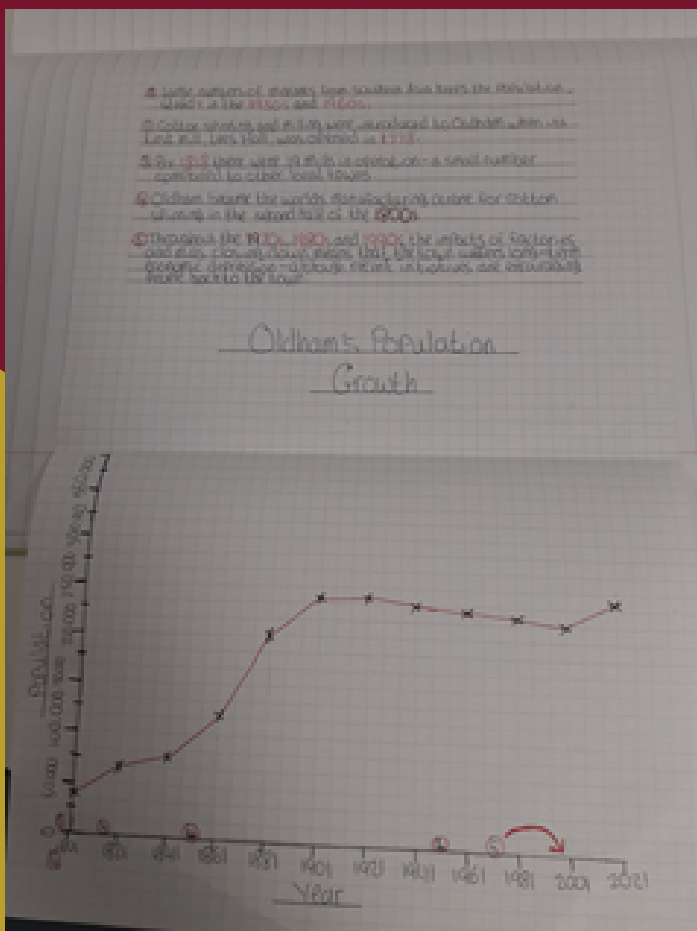
The English department are extremely proud of our students when it comes to completing their English homework, the standard has been wonderful all round. Having this attitude and desire to do well in English is really paying off. This is a small example of what they have produced.

Geography - Population Change in Oldham

This term in Geography, we have been studying how Oldham's population has changed over time and the reasons for this. We have learnt that the industrial revolution, which included the building of 360 cotton mills in the town, led to the migration of people from other areas into Oldham for work.

We also considered the natural advantages Oldham has which supported the cotton industry, such as the mild, wet climate which prevented the cotton drying out and our location close to other major towns and cities which provided workers and an easy way to transport goods.

There have been some excellent discussions in lessons, with many pupils sharing information about their families who may have moved to Oldham and/or worked in the mills. In addition, pupils have produced excellent population graphs – well done everyone!



In addition, the most muddy grounds.

How has Oldham's population changed?

Factor	Effect
Flooding, Low fertility	Less crime - Health
Drought	Fertile land
War	Good climate
Political instability	Close to family

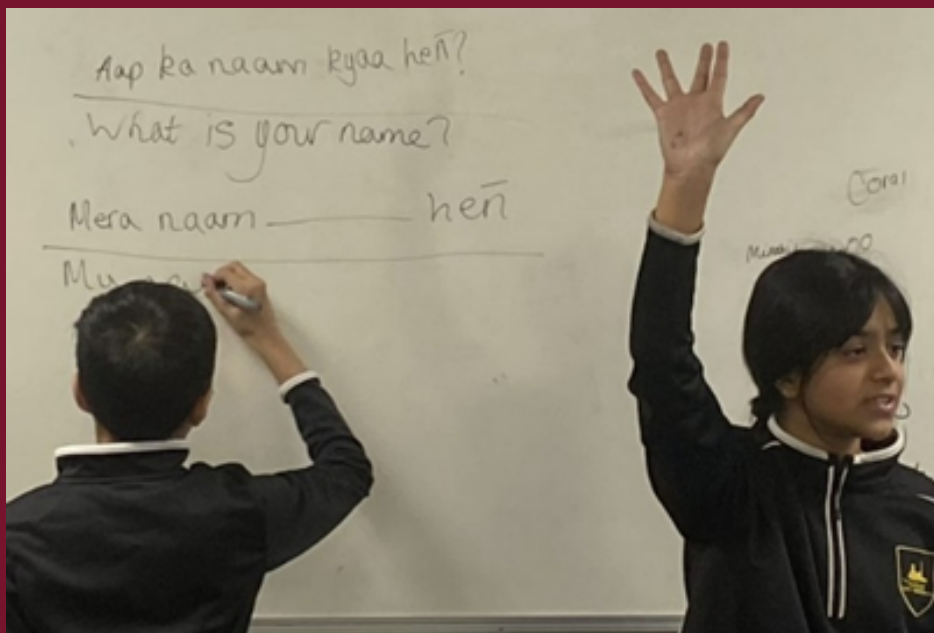
Migration

The movement of people to a new country or area in order to find work or better living conditions.

There was mass migration to Oldham in the 19th century as a result of the industrial revolution.

Co-Curricular - Culture club

This half term our amazing linguists have been learning about how Germans celebrate the new year and two students have taught us how to say hello, goodbye and their name in Urdu. The culture clubbers have also read the traditional German fairy tale Hansel and Gretel in German and enjoyed eating gingerbread! Finally, the culture clubbers have been busy getting their entries ready for the German Olympiad run by the University of Oxford.



Poetry By Heart

Poetry by Heart is a national poetry speaking competition with a chance to perform at Shakespeare's Globe, London. Pupils choose a poem, learn it by heart and perform it out loud.

We were overwhelmed by the number of pupils eager to embrace this wonderful opportunity! Our pupils never cease to amaze us with their ambition and drive to be everything they are meant to be.

Keep a close eye on the developments over the next few weeks as our budding poets work hard to memorise and perfect their performance of their chosen poem. We cannot wait to share them with you.

We wish them all good luck!



Maths

Number Day

Lots of fun was had by pupils and staff during our Number Hunt on Friday 3rd February to celebrate Number Day. Pupils hunted out the staff wearing the numbers which matched the questions on their entry and learned some new maths whilst doing it. Well done to everyone who submitted their entry and to our winners who achieved 100% on the number hunt – Jaden, Aishah, Arvi and Tamim.

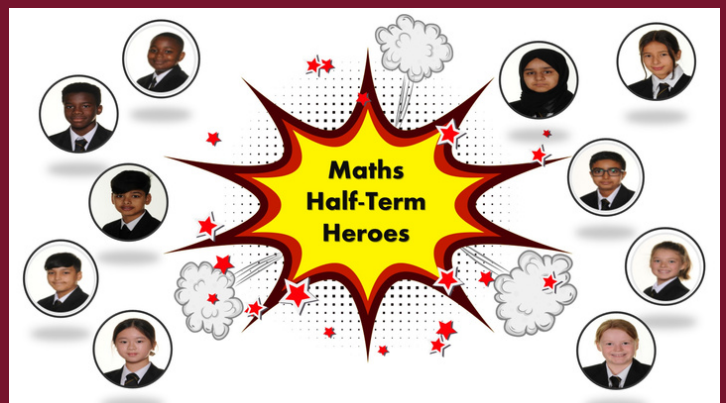


Sparx Maths Update

A huge congratulations to all our Maths Half-Term Heroes who have achieved the most XP this term so far. This shows incredible effort and dedication to their maths studies and determination to strive to be the best they can be.

During the last week of Sparx Homework, Brian Clarke Academy pupils achieved a record 100% completion rate of 97% which placed us 7th overall across the country (out of over 1400 schools). This is a phenomenal achievement and one everyone should be very proud of! Next half-term we are aiming for 100% and 1st place which our amazing Brian Clarke scholars are truly capable of achieving!

Most XP earned this term so far (up to 3 rd Feb) Congratulations to all our Maths Heroes!		
	Student	XP Earned
1	Aaron	27,347
2	Amelia	22,308
3	Abbie	20,507
4	Jaden	19,174
5	Yuvraj	16,284
6	Azaan	10,576
7	Vicky	8552
8	Keyaan	7671
9	Lucy	7149
10	Hanfa	6024



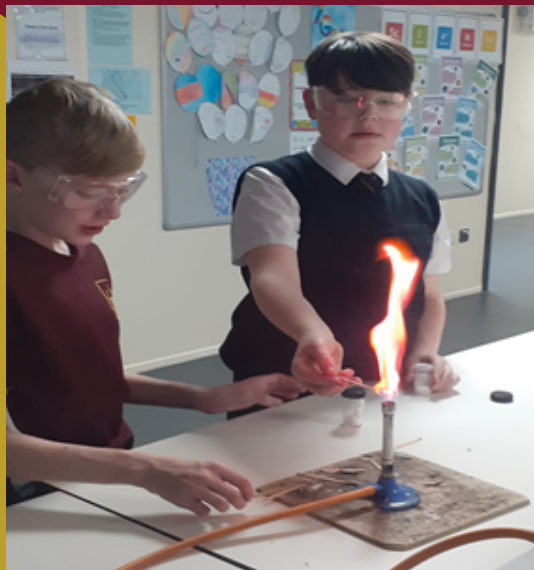
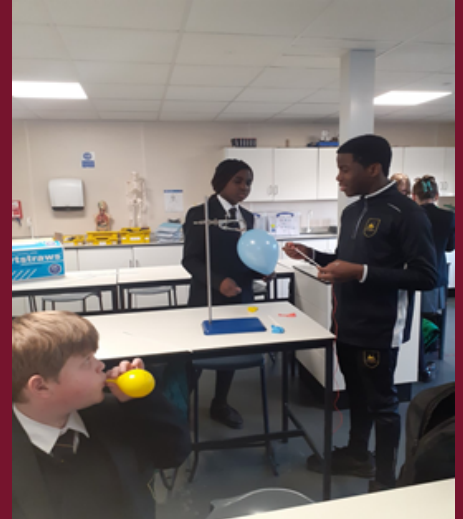
MEM Maths Challenge

On Thursday 2nd February some of our keenest mathematicians attended an evening of maths challenges and workshops at Blue Coat School to prepare them for the MEM challenge which pupils will be completing over the half-term break. Mr Stringer and Miss Garforth were delighted to see so many pupils and families attending and getting stuck into some exciting maths problems, puzzles, and challenges. Good luck to everyone entering the MEM challenge!

Science

Earth and Space Club!

This term, our Earth and Space club has got off to a brilliant start! We have been learning about our solar system, including the planets and the asteroid belt. We used astronomical units and a scale to help us to create scale models of the solar system. We had great fun making balloon rockets and have recently investigated moon craters. Next half term, we will learn about the constellations and the Moon landings, and we will be trying to design a parachute to make a body land safely. The group have been excellent and really engaged in the activities.



Forensics Club!

Our second forensics club have made a fantastic start to the term, learning about footprint analysis, fingerprinting, chocolate analysis and flame testing. We have also been considering the evidence gathered and whether this is conclusive or not. During the second half term, we will be focussing on DNA analysis, using microscopes to analyse samples and using electrical circuits to make intruder alarms.

Recommended Reads

At Brian Clarke we encourage all our students to read for pleasure. Below are some ideas for books to recommend to your young person if they're not sure on what to read next!

Recommended Reads

For students who enjoy Greek myths/legends or action books:



Who Let the Gods Out- Maz Evans

When a shooting star crashes to earth, it lands Eliot smack bang in the path of Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But when the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, they've got nowhere to turn for help but to the old Olympian gods.

For students who are interested in different time periods in History:



The Tudors: The Divers Daughter- Patrice Lawrence

When Eve and her mother hear that one of the African divers sent to salvage the Mary Rose is still alive, and that another wreck, rich with treasures, lies nearby, they set out to find him. This dangerous journey might change their lives for the better, but prejudice and betrayal put mother and daughter terrifyingly close to one of the worst possible accusations of the Tudor times.



World War I: Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer

Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?

For students who enjoy fantasy or magical books:



The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.



Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

Thousands of years ago, a powerful and malevolent force conjured a demon: a demon so evil that it could only be contained in the body of a ferocious bear, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it ... Twelve-year-old Torak sees his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, he asks his son to make him a promise. Alone, wounded, terrified and on the run, Torak must now lead the bear to the Mountain of the World Spirit - a mountain that no one has ever found before. But can Torak keep his promise?



Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

Lily's life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends - Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox - Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realizes that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart... Murder, mayhem and mystery meet in this gripping Victorian adventure

Recommended Reads continued....

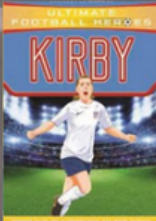
Recommended Reads

For students who enjoy football:



Man of the Match, by Dan Freedman

Jamie Johnson starts the season on fire. He's playing for his beloved Hawkstone - and he's the top scorer in the country. But when a rival from an Italian club joins his team, everything changes. Jamie's temper gets the better of him, and he's sent on loan to a much smaller club. Will Jamie be able to make it back into the big time - or has he blown his chances for good?



Kirby by Charlotte Brown

Fran Kirby is the dynamic striker who carries the future of English football on her shoulders. Having been hailed 'mini Messi' by one former manager of England, Kirby's powerful runs and clinical finishing have made her a deadly goalscorer. Read the story of how the girl from Reading earned a big move to Chelsea and took on the world with a ball at her feet. The sky is the limit for Fran Kirby.

For students who enjoy humorous books:



The last kids on Earth by Max Brallier and Douglas Holgate

Overnight Jack's life has become like the plot of a video game and he has come up with his own **ULTIMATE FEATS OF APOCALYPTIC SUCCESS**: · Locate Quint Baker, best friend and inventor · Find and rescue June Del Toro, his secret love interest · Defeat Blarg, the biggest, baddest monster in town · Become a zombie-fighting, monster-bashing tornado of cool!



The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon

Tom Gates is the master of excuses for late homework: dog attacks; spilt water; and, lightning. Tom's exercise book is full of his doodles, cartoons and thoughts, as well as comments from his long-suffering teacher, Mr Fullerton. After gaining five merits for his 'Camping Sucks' holiday story, Tom's work starts to go downhill - which is a pity, as he's desperate to impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him...



Something I said by Ben Bailey Smith

For thirteen-year-old Carmichael Taylor, life is one big joke - in a good way. He just can't understand why no one else seems to find everything as funny as he does. When Car is filmed stumbling into performing a piece of hilarious stand-up at the school talent show - targeting his family, school and friends - the footage ends up creating international infamy. But with the promise of fame and fortune comes trouble, and it's up to Car to decide what or who he's willing to risk to chase his comedy dream.

Co - Curricular School Choir

Our co-curricular choir took part in a vocal gala held at Newman College through Oldham Music Service this half term. Twelve students represented the school through a variety of vocal workshops, learning two new pieces of music to sing alongside other schools in the community. They also gave a performance of Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac to the rest of the schools.

Throughout the day these twelve students were a credit to Brian Clarke. They engaged with all the activities and held their own amongst more established and older vocal groups. Teachers from other schools and the music service commented on how well they performed and how impeccably behaved they were all day. It was a pleasure performing in the community and Mr Smith and the choir look forward to more performances across the year.



Music builds a bridge, it can tear down a wall!!
Music is a language, that can speak to one and all!

CHORUS

This is why we sing (*this is why*), we sing (*this is why*), we sing!



Physical Education

It has been another action packed half term in lessons, co-curricular and extra-curricular. We are so impressed with the amount of students that take part in all the opportunities that are available to them.

From co-curricular alone team PE sees over 220 students attend each week and we now have school teams in netball, rugby, football, cross country, swimming, table tennis, bowling, basketball and we are only halfway through the year.



What a wonderful half term illustrating the amazing engagement in PE. As you can see we have worked really hard at our Gymnastics this half term focusing on the introduction of Yoga, balances, sequencing and the development of rolls and jumps.



We have developed our healthy active lifestyle unit this half term by creating our own workouts based on our SMART targets. Our students have worked wonderfully during this half term with a lot of effort being put into every session.

Physical Education- Boys Football / Swimming Trials / Netball

It has been a cold period up on the Edge this half term but that doesn't stop us doing what we love. Our students have been developing their skills ready to put into their fixtures. It was an absolute pleasure to see our team have another fixture against North Chadderton school where we showed our true quality against the opposition. Keep working hard boys!



Another amazing opportunity for our students to showcase their many talents. Students attended a very competitive swimming trials at Oldham sports centre and we cannot wait for the gala dates to be released so we can get our swimmers back into the water!



Our Netballers continue to impress with every single fixture they take part in. Each fixture they demonstrate our school values and we have a sense of overwhelming pride as they represent our school and community. Mrs Hargreaves is proud and very lucky to have 4 wonderful teams in the Hawks, Ravens, Owls and newly appointed boys' team and is so excited to get into our new school to let the training commence.



Physical Education- Girls Football / Rugby / Panathlon / Gymnastic

We are so proud of our girls football team, the enthusiasm and tenacity they demonstrate in their training and in matches is a force to be reckoned with. They keep going from strength to strength and it is truly inspiring to see so many confident and talented students who support one another both on and off the field.



Our Rugby team have given us our first rugby win this half term. It is fantastic to see the team working so hard, improving each training session and match they take part in. We are so pleased this has been rewarded in the last fixture. Keep going boys!

Panathlon- Our students competed with a number of schools in the borough in a multi skills event. Who knew we had such all-rounders in a variety of activities. Well done to all students who competed and represented the school impeccably!



What a fabulous Gymnastic event that took place this half term. Our students demonstrated both excellence and ambition during a Gymnastics taster event. All students were enthusiastic and took themselves out of their comfort zone and fully embraced the event.

Physical Education- Basketball / Dancing



Our Basketball team also represented school with absolute pride in a recent competition. The fantastic students who took part were phenomenal and were undefeated in 6 games and were overall competition winners! Well done to this fabulous team we cant wait for more competitions with you. In addition it was incredible to hear that one of our very own students was named player of the tournament and players, player awarded but the opposing teams. A huge congratulations and a truly amazing competition to watch.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all our Wednesday dancers! This amazing group have given up both their Thursday and Friday lunch times to learn choeography and let their hair down during a busy academic day. This group are an absolute pleasure and always amaze me with their skills and talent and as we always is in Dance club "In a world full of Mondays, be a Wednesday".



Accelerated Reader

Students have all been making brilliant progress with Accelerated Reader this half term and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. Accelerated Reader is a programme where students can quiz on books they have read.

All our current Millionaire Readers:

Student	Words Read
Eisa S	2,743,600
Ellise S	2,496,544
Amelia M	2,255,868
Arwa A	2,216,250
Olive C	1,104,627
Muhsen Y	1,031,603
Sundas A	1,004,239
Tanvir A-H	1,003,590

Top three classes on Accelerated Reader this half term:

Teacher	Total words read by the class
1) Mr Cox (7a1)	3,788,310
2) Miss Bezer (7a2)	2,991,273
3) Mrs Briggs (7a4)	2,171,531

Total words read by our students this half term: 17,280,574

Total Accelerated Reader quizzes passed this half term: 434

Please encourage your young person to continue to read and access Accelerated Reader throughout the holidays and during the next half term. To log on, students must follow the following:

To access Accelerated Reader:

1. Log on to Sharepoint with your normal school username/password. A link to sharepoint can be found at the bottom of the Brian Clarke Academy homepage. Do **NOT** google Accelerated Reader as your log in will not work. You **must** log in via sharepoint.
2. Go to Accelerated Reader on the Quick Resources
3. Click on 'I am a student'
4. Your username is your school username
5. Your password is your birthday in this format (including the forward slashes): DD/MM/YYYY, so if you were born on the 1st January 2010, your password would look like this: 01/01/2010
6. Click on the orange 'Accelerated Reader' icon, and then type in a book you have read recently in order to quiz. If you can't find the book you've read by the title, try typing the authors name in.

Note- not all books are on Accelerated Reader. Check before reading a book if you can quiz on it.

Library

Our students' library use is exceptional, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication to reading for pleasure. Students have also been submitting ideas for books for our new school library.

Number of books borrowed this academic year: 1109

Co - Curricular & Lunchtime Activities



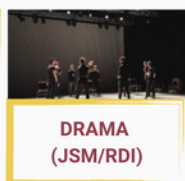
BRIAN CLARKE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Co-Curricular Clubs - Jan - May 2023

Mon



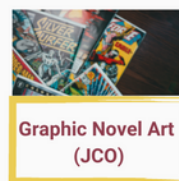
**CODE
(JST)**



**DRAMA
(JSM/RDI)**



**FOOTBALL
(MBR)**



**Graphic Novel Art
(JCO)**



**Table Tennis
(EGA)**



**Culture
(CWO)**

Tues



**BCA NEWSPAPER
(AHU)**



**Forensics
(GNU)**



**NETBALL
(AHA)**



**Fitness Gym
(MBR)**



**British Sign
Language
(FBR)**

Wed



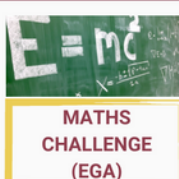
**CAD Engineering
and Design
(MHA)**



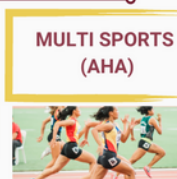
**Rugby Club
Boys (JCO)**



**Earth & Space
Club
(GNU)**



**MATHS
CHALLENGE
(EGA)**

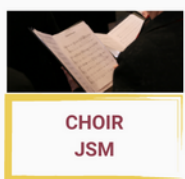


**MULTI SPORTS
(AHA)**

Thur



**British Sign
Language
(FBR)**



**CHOIR
JSM**



**DEBATE
(RDI)**



**CAD Engineering
and Design
(MHA)**



**MULTI SPORTS
(AHA)**



**Read Around The
World Club
(AHU)**



BRIAN CLARKE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

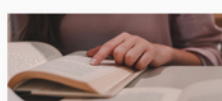
LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES 2023

Mon



**PICNIC AND POETRY
BY HEART
(BCA7/AHU)**

Tues



**ACCELERATED READING
Drop in from 12.45
(BCA4 / EBE)**



**SPARX MATHS
(BCA4-JST/EGA)**

Wed



**ACCELERATED
READING
Drop in from 12.45
(BCA1/ EBE)**



**SPARX MATHS
(BCA4-JST/EGA)**



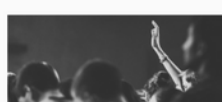
**DANCE CLUB
(BCA2 AHA)**

Thurs



**FAITH CLUB 12.45
(BCA5 / CWO)**

Fri



**DEBATE
(BCA8/RDI)**



Other News

Here are a few pictures from the Celebration Assembly. We are so proud of all our students this term, well done for all their successes they have achieved.



EVENTS

SCHOOL RE-OPENS	Monday 20th February
SCHOOL CLOSES	Friday 31st March
SCHOOL RE- OPENS	Monday 17th April



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