



# BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

January 2022

## Headteacher's Introduction



Dear Parents and Carers

As we look forward to the beginning of February, I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for your ongoing support. As always,

please do not hesitate to contact school if there is anything you would like to discuss with us. We really value all the input we receive both positive and in terms of things we can develop further. Thank you.



### Bitesize English Revision!

Do you want to support your child be successful in English, but are unsure of what to do? Miss Robinson is sending out weekly emails to parents to help them support their children develop skills and revise for English. Each week 2x 15 minute tasks are sent out for you to compete at home. If you would like to join the mailing list, please send Miss Robinson an email on [brobinson@brs.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:brobinson@brs.srscmat.co.uk) stating which year your child is in.

## Upcoming Events

10.03.22	Y11 Parents' Evening
10.03.22	SEN Consultation Evening
29.03.22	Parent Forum 6pm-7pm
31.03.22	Parental Workshop online
07.04.22	Year 7 Parents' Evening,

### UKMT 25th Anniversary Challenge

25 students from Year 7 and 8 participated in the UKMT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge. The UKMT challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The students enjoyed participating in the challenge and it was a great opportunity for them to prepare for the UKMT Junior Challenge in April. Within our school, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Oliver W (Year 7). Sophie W (Year 7) and Amelia H (Year 7) got joint 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Harriet W (Year 8), Evangelene P (Year 8) and Joshua O (Year 7). Well done to all the students who participated. I also want to say good luck to the 20 Year 10 and 11 students participating in the Intermediate UKMT Challenge this month.



## Artist of the week



Keegan.G  
Year 7



Sienna.N  
Year 10

### Eedi Spring League:

Students from BRS have been participating in the Eedi Spring League. This is a global competition for students in Years 5 to 11. Students are rewarded for practicing Maths topics using a tailored pathway of lessons and low-stakes quizzes. The Eedi family platform celebrates hard work and perseverance by giving students flame points for getting a learning streak, which can go towards their school total. In the first week of the Eedi Spring League competition students at BRS worked incredibly hard to beat schools all over the globe and take 1<sup>st</sup> place -



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winning our school a £60 Amazon voucher. The Spring League continues until the 13th February, so there is still time for students to earn points for our school and be in for a chance to win individual prizes. Students can find more information about joining in with the Spring League on the Maths department page on Firefly, or by visiting Miss Jones.

## Messages from our Year Leaders

### Message from Head of Year 7

It has been another promising start for our lovely Year 7's. They have settled in so well and have become involved in so many different ventures throughout the school. Not only have they become school ambassadors, actively lead school worship to all the other year groups and they have even participated in a multi academy sport competition. They also managed to make it to the Nottingham arena for the pantomime performance of 'Beauty and the Beast' in December where their behaviour was exemplary. They have been an absolute credit to themselves and should feel proud of what they have so far accomplished. Whilst I could name so many amazing students, I must give special shout outs to Sam, Kacper, Ruby, Zara and Harry for their amazing capacity to say, 'Yes' to anything I throw in their direction.

### Message from Head of Year 8

Year 8 have been involved in a great number of projects this term and it is lovely to see so many children excelling in so many areas. So firstly a massive congratulations for Harriett Whetton and Evangelene Puthussery who came joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in the UK Maths Challenge. Those questions are so hard and all the pupils did well who entered. I would like to give a special mention to Sonny Wilkinson and George Eyden who are our new technical experts they have been doing all the sound and special effects for the assemblies and will be running the school production

in July. you need nerves of steel and well as great technical skill for this job. I would like to thank Evangelene Puthussery, Jake Balcome, Sophie Robey, Lilly Cox and Oscar Oldfield for doing all the presenting of our collective worship this week. They did a great job. Finally we have a number of year 8's who are actually in the school production in July so i hope lots of people will be able to come and enjoy this. A well done to: Ashton Zahra, Oskar Oldfield, Filip Monik, Sonnie Mercer, Toby Bowley, Max Milczarski, Alfie Savage, jakub Micholska, Sophie Robey, Ellie Taylor, Harley starmer, Lilly Cox, Bella Young, Ruby Carpenter and Jak fern. A massive well done to all.

### Message from Head of Year 9

After a strong start to the term, Year 9 reach a pivotal point in their academic journey, OPTIONS! Over the last few weeks each Year 9 pupil has had the chance to meet with Mrs Macaulay to discuss their careers and the options that will give them the qualifications they need to progress in their chosen choice. Year 9 always work exceptionally hard but some superstars from this term include Remi S, Oliver M and Emma C who have all had a special mention from their teachers about the hard work they are putting in! As always, I am on hand should any parent or pupil want to discuss the options or anything else

### Message from Head of Year 10

As we approach the end of the half-term, it is important to highlight how brilliant Year 10 have been over the past few weeks. They have been working exceptionally hard as they progress through their GCSEs. Students who stand out as going above and beyond include Caitlin, Maritta, Oliver and Brodie. As the term has progressed, students have engaged with our extra-curricular programme. It has been lovely to see students



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participating in a wide range of activities such as boxercise, rugby and D of E. These extra-curricular activities allow students to not only spend time with their peers, but also allows them to wind down and switch off from the school day. I look forward to watching their continued growth in these activities and in their academics.

## Message from Head of Year 11

Year 11 you have continued to amaze and inspire me. Your behaviour and attitude to learning during your first set of mock exams was exemplary. You were all exam ready, and this was evident in your results. As we now move on to your next set of Mock exams in March, I know that you will all be ready to complete these exams to the best of your ability. It has also been lovely to see many of you planning for your futures regarding applying for Sixth form places and speaking to our career's advisor in school. I have enjoyed writing references for those who have requested them. As a year group we have also started to plan prom, this I am sure this will be an amazing evening full of fun and joy, as well as being a time to reflect on how far we have come as students and teachers together at Robert Sutton. As we move forward towards the final hurdle of the actual exams, I know that you will join me in my excitement for what comes next, it may be a nerve racking time for you and your families but remember that this is the beginning of your journeys to success.



## Parent Forum

Once every half term parents/carers of BRS students get together with some of the senior staff and Headteacher to discuss the direction of the school. The school uses the Parent Forum to get parents/carers opinions on new ideas.

Developments that have started in Parent Forum have include more informative school reports and additions to the website.

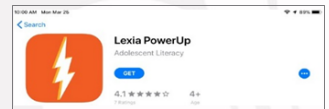
This important forum gives parents a voice and answers to some challenging question. For those willing to take a more active role in supporting the school, we are

looking for a Vice Chair of Governors.

So, whether you want your voice heard, have some great fun raising ideas, some free time for a worthy cause or want to have real say in the future of BRS, we need you, please contact us at: **office@brs.srscmat.co.uk** to find out more.

## Lexia Update

During October we wrote to you about our ongoing focus on reading and literacy, and that pupils would be using a new computer-based programme 'Lexia Power up Literacy' which provides each child with a package of literacy support that meets their unique needs. It builds on our English curriculum, focusing on three areas essential to becoming a proficient reader - word study, grammar and comprehension. We hope you have had chance to have a closer look at Lexia with your child at home to see the brilliant work and progress they have been making. We have been really impressed with how the children have worked with Lexia and would encourage you to find out more from your child.



We deliver Lexia in several ways:

- All Key Stage 3 students will complete Lexia work during their timetabled literacy lesson
- Where students' reading age is below chronological age, they will have additional intervention sessions each week
- Students can complete extra Lexia work at home

Teacher Email (for set up)	Lexia@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Student Username	
Password	

Instructions below. Lexia can be accessed from the Firefly homepage. The first time PowerUp is used at home, you will need to enter the email below on the setup screen. You can then log in with the username and password used at school.



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A reminder that we are also offering additional support in Prep club. If you wish your child to attend any of the following sessions Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 3-4pm please email: [nkucharik@brs.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:nkucharik@brs.srscmat.co.uk) to book a place. Please encourage your child to complete Lexia work at home to further support their literacy progress.

## St Ralph Sherwin Olympic Football Competition

On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 25 excited pupils travelled to the Derby Powerleague football facility at Pride Park for an action packed day of 6 a side football. The competition

consisted of the five Saint Ralph Sherwin secondary schools competing against each other in eight



quick fire group games. The top four sides qualified for the semi finals and all Robert Sutton teams got through. The football played was excellent by all teams with the Year 7 boys winning 5, drawing 2 and losing only 1 group match. The Year 8 boys won 4, drew 1 and lost 3 games. The year 8 girls won 3, drew 3 and lost 2

Unfortunately, all teams lost very close games in the semi finals but overall we can be very proud of our performance and the effort and attitude displayed throughout the day.

## Message from Mrs Tarry in the Sutton Behaviour Hub

Wanting to make the most of the space outside the Behaviour Hub in the Sutton Building, I



thought I

would ask Mr Buck to put his handy work to the test and asked him to build me a squirrel feeder! This is what he came up with.

So, I went shopping for nuts and seeds and I must say it is a proper little wildlife haven now. Ever



since, I have been inundated with very greedy squirrels and a variety of bird life. Well done Mr Buck!

## Book Club

There are two book clubs running at lunchtimes for different year groups. The Year 7 and 8 book club have previously read 'We Are All Made of Molecules' by Susan Nielsen. This is a coming-of-age book that explores the advantages and challenges faced by two very different teenagers in a blended family. It explores themes such as individuality, loss, prejudice and acceptance. The students responded really maturely to these themes and enjoyed the dual narrative offered by the two main characters, Stewart and Ashley. Currently, the Year 7 and 8 book club are reading 'Chinese Cinderella', an autobiographical novel by Adeline Yen Mah. This is a very different book to the previous read, however the students are finding it very interesting and unique. Based on the author's difficult childhood during WW2 and after in Shanghai, this book allows the reader an insight into Adeline's heart-breaking yet inspirational journey from a tough childhood to more promising teenage years, teaching readers that light can be found in even the most seemingly hopeless situations.

The first book Years 9-11 read in book club was 'One of Us is Lying' by Karen McManus. The book is set in an American high school and is about a group of students accused of murder after a death occurs in a school detention. The book explores social stereotypes and examines the lives of teenagers growing up in America.

Our current book is 'Five Feet Apart' by Mikki Daughtry, Rachael Lippincott, and Tobias Iaconis. This book again is about teenagers but is set in a hospital where its main characters Will and Stella are undergoing treatment for Cystic Fibrosis. The book so far has generated lots of discussion around medical conditions and treatments, linked to ethics and the students have dealt with this in a very mature way.



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# Supporting children's mental health

## 10 Conversation starters for parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. This guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so you and your child feel comfortable talking about worries and wellbeing.



### 1. Listen

Active listening is where we listen without interruption or making judgements. If your child feels listened to for the small things they will feel confident you will listen to the bigger problems.

### 3. There is no such thing as stupid question

If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming and belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

### 5. Know when to seek help

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected? How long does it last? Talk to your child about your concerns and discuss seeking fur-

### 7. Empathise

Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. They need our kindness and care then they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

### 9. Mind your language

Be mindful of the language you use to at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language that is harmful.

### 2. Ask Twice

Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

### 4. Be open and honest

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. How you talk about the subject will depend on the child's age but honesty is always best.

### 6. Talk about mental health naturally

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised.

### 8. Help your child feel safe

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that they will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next.

### 10. It's ok to say 'I don't know what to do next'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is going through is not something you know about. Be honest and discuss find-

### Additional sources of information and support:

Young minds: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/>

