



Our Children, Our Community, Believe it can be done!

BROADWAY ACADEMY

Newsletter

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Headteacher & CEO of Broadway Academy, The Broadway, Birmingham B20 3DP

Headteacher and CEO's 'Thought for the week'

Dear Parents and Students,



I hope that you and your families have a restful and peaceful Christmas. Christmas started for me this year last Monday when twenty of our students took part in the magnificent Gabriella Roar concert at Coventry Cathedral involving 1,000 students from state and independent schools who combined with professional musicians to produce an amazing performance. The spectacular Christmas concert was called 'In Dulci Jubilo'. Gabriella Roar is a challenging training programme that invites young singers to perform alongside one of the UK's leading period music ensembles. The programme is a collaboration between Gabriella and a range of diverse English school and youth choirs. This opportunity came through Broadway's amazing and enduring partnership with Radley College. This mutually beneficial partnership assists with all aspects of students' academic, personal and spiritual development, involving students and staff from both schools. It was Radley's Director of Music, Sam Gladstone, who worked with Broadway's Head of Music, Aaron Maloney, to make the concert become a reality for our students. Brilliant!

I am so pleased that so many staff at Broadway not only ensure day to day teaching is of the highest standard but also give up their time so freely to ensure students are enabled to flourish as young human beings. The breadth and depth of our extra curricular and co curricular work (from Chess, To Stem, to girls Judo to Academy basketball) has become one of Broadway's distinctive features. Increasing the ability of students to work productively with others; to apply their learning to real life situations and develop resilience in their character is so important for their future hopes and dreams. It's been a delight to see our SEND students excel in their chosen courses as well as to support two students who have attended Broadway to go through the interview process for a potential place at Oxford University. This makes Broadway a truly remarkable place to work. Excellent student attendance, praiseworthy behaviour and academic rigour combined with opportunities for personal development has become our hallmark. Not surprisingly recent tests from PISA placed Broadway students at the top of international rankings for their levels of optimism. Our work is never complete, excellence is always work in progress and we will do all we can to enable each child to develop a love of learning that will stay with them for life.

A recent review of Broadway's work, by the SSAT, around equality and inclusion concluded:
Strengths and key features of the school's equality and diversity work

- The leadership, support, and priority given by the Headteacher and his leadership team to the academy's EDI work
- Commitment to vision, values, and using this to develop and sustain a highly inclusive, harmonious, safe, respectful, academy culture which enables all students to thrive
- Passion and pride of the staff body for ensuring individuals and groups across the academy have the best possible school experience, and are well prepared for their futures
- Collaborative and partnership working that creates a wide range of opportunity for students and encourages high aspiration for all
- Strong, robust, academic and pastoral support for all students including those identified as SEND, EAL and LGBTQ+ and those who are disadvantaged, in care, or in alternative provision
- An inclusive curriculum underpinned by the equalities act and protected characteristics
- Student voice that is listened to and acted on, and student led activity that contributes to celebrating, promoting and creating understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion
- Access that staff have to professional development, training and other forms of progression

As we go into the Christmas season let us remember the message of Christmas which is often forgotten in the hustle and bustle of modern life. The message is one of HOPE which is closely linked to our value of optimism. 'It was believed that Jesus would come and rescue them from hopelessness'. That's why it's so important that we take the inspiration we find in the first Christmas story and help people find hope wherever they are.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Skelton



Science Directorate News - Miss Kharod Head of Science

As the Head of Science, I endeavour to ensure my department delivers an excellent educational experience to all students that not only focusses on excellent outcomes but also helps students to develop great character and resilience. **Outdoor education is Science** and we in the department will ensure that we work hard to enable all students to enjoy outdoor science even though we are limited on green space on our school site.

I decided this summer that we would use our roof top patios to grow food, breed budgies and cockatiels. Some Broadway students may not have the resources to keep a pet at home so they can enjoy seeing the birds in school and from home using our Frog Virtual Learning Environment. I intend to make links with other curriculum areas on this topic too. For instance, budgies are native to Australia and explorers such as Captain Cook are credited with bringing them and other exotic animals to our shores during the late 1800's. Queen Victoria was gifted a pair in 1845 to be exact. This would be something we could study in the KS3 history curriculum (if Mr Dyson, lets us!).

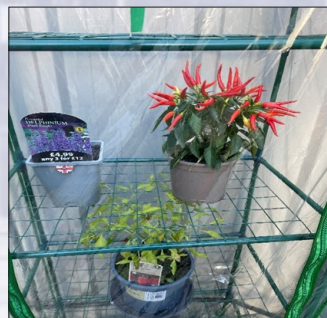
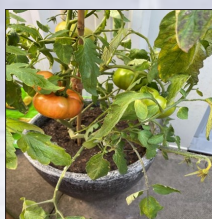
I am delighted with the results and many students have already enjoyed watching and talking to the birds. Young people who care for animals learn responsibility and the birds can help to reduce the anxiety that someone might feel if life is difficult or stressful especially when preparing for exams. Any student is welcome to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of sitting on the patio and watching the birds play and listening to them chirp.

A special thank you goes out to Mr and Mrs Kalsi and Mahad Naveed (12 years old), all local residents, for generously providing budgies and cockatiels to get the project started.



Growing Food

We are growing vegetables, flowers and herbs on the patio in a grow bag. I firmly believe we should never feel like we cannot be self-sufficient even if we live in houses without or limited garden space. It is quite easy to grow food in pots on windowsills and hanging baskets in urban areas. The second science patio will be developed with the help of our farmer from Top Barn Farm, Mr Devaraj. We aim to start a vertical farming project growing microgreens to be used in our own canteen and food lessons with Ms Benton who already has her thinking cap on for menu ideas. If any of the KS5 science students would like to get involved in vertical farming, please see me for details.



Residential trip

The Field Studies Council (FSC) Residential trip to Preston Montford was an enriching curriculum experience which allowed pupils to build confidence and resilience whilst learning in external environment. The activity exceeded everyone's expectations. Pupils applied mathematical and graphical skills using a real-life context. For example, Simpson's index of diversity using their own data using independent data collection techniques at a lake, sewage pond and on an algal wall.

The benefits to the students:

- Developing personal skills
- Inspired passion for the outdoor education and biology.
- Team building with peers
- Mastering techniques of complex statistical data analysis.

Mrs Akram -
KS5 Science coordinator

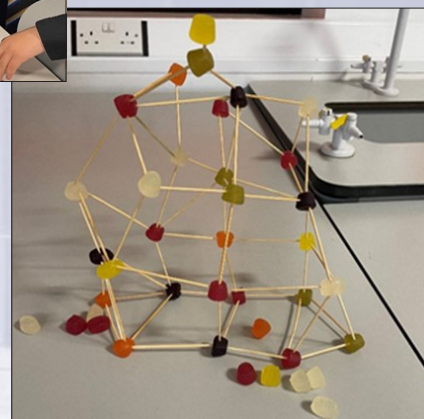
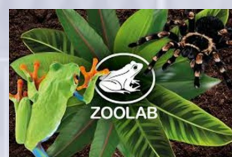
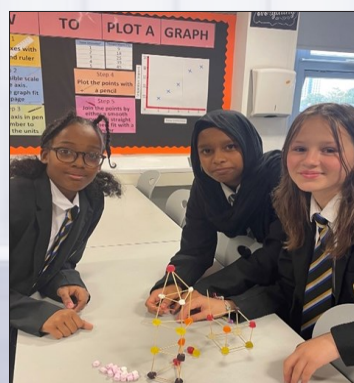


Year 7 and 8 STEM Club

STEM club relaunched this month and attendance has been good. There are a few spaces left and if you would like to sign up, please see Miss Akhtar in O6.

In our first week we had a tower building challenge and students had great fun!

We have booked the external company 'Zoolab' for students to observe and possibly handle exotic animals, next month. Come along and enjoy the spectacle!



Performing Arts at Broadway

This term started like a snail and is ending like an avalanche in performing arts at Broadway! We have had extremely intensive rehearsal periods for both Drama and Music which have produced two fabulous productions both in and out of school.

The Music department, led by Mr Moloney with Mr Eriksen, has been involved in an ambitious and dynamic production that saw our students travel to Radley school for a day's rehearsal. (with an impromptu performance in Broadway's courtyard.



Singing in the Courtyard



Singing at Radley



Group photo at Radley

Pupils performed on the evening of 5th December at the magnificent Coventry Cathedral.



The performance had over a thousand performers that included top quality professional musicians, the Radley boys choir who had worked on their performance for a long time, as well as a number of primary and secondary schools from across the region. This was a marvellous and prestigious event. It was an incredible experience for the audience members - never mind those who were selected to perform in it. The whole performance was kept together by the highly-praised conductor, Paul McCreesh - you can look him up on the internet as he has his own Wikipedia page. Even better still, you can listen to the performance yourself on the radio! It will be broadcast on Christmas Day on BBC radio 3.

The drama department has gone back to its winning ways of producing highly ambitious and star-quality performances led by Mrs James and Miss Cox. This term we are lucky to have the incredible Broadway version of Oliver! (the musical). The show is in the final stages of rehearsal as this is being written and you can see the spirit and quality of the performers by the photographs.



Charles Dickens



Dodger



Fagin and Oliver

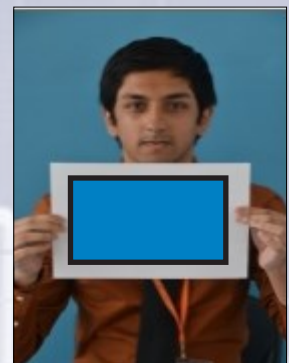


Crisis

Broadway Academy success in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

This may not be the most attractive picture I have but just to let everyone know that Khaled who is now studying at Warwick University has made Broadway history!

He is the first student to achieve the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and should be going down to one of the palaces to receive his award. This young man has shown that drive and determination brings success



Year 9 trip to Portsmouth to visit the HMS QEII.

During the visit year 9 displayed all of the 8 Broadway values and were exceptional throughout the day - from the way they conducted themselves on both coach journeys and on HMS QEII Royal Navy Flagship. They arrived in full academy uniform and wore the academy badge with pride. They asked very good and useful questions and got a real insight on how there are different roles and responsibilities in the Navy. From 8am to 8.30pm the students conducted themselves with the highest of standards.

They also made propellers using a paper model and analysed which ones were the best.



Island Pool

All year 7 pupils had the opportunity to visit Island Pool this half term to take part in a "Shipwreck Challenge" when they had to demonstrate survival and bushcraft skills as imaginary shipwreck survivors! Teamwork was essential and the shelters that the pupils built below are wonderful examples of this.

A typical quote came from a pupil in 7MB:

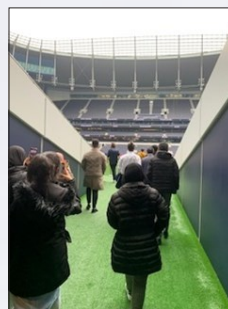
"I loved Island Pool and wish we could have stayed for longer and do more activities."

Don't worry - there will be plenty more chances to go to Island Pool this year and for the rest of your time here!



Trips

There have been many fabulous trips and experiences for Broadway pupils this term, including outdoor education activities at Island Pool and Sutton Park, theatre trips, a visit to Radley College, museum visits, cultural visits, numerous careers and work-related learning trips, Food Technology activities at Esperance Farm and our amazing choir and actors performing on the stage to huge audiences. In addition, the year 13 Business group visited London to visit the so-called 'Silicon Triangle' and also Tottenham Hotspur's stadium (see right) where they had chance to get an insight into the workings of a top-flight Premier League club.



Broadway House Competition

You may remember that Austin won the overall competition for the academic year 2021-22, as well as the individual competitions for year 8, 9, 11 and 6th form (Boulton won the year 7 and 10 competitions). However, Mason have started the 2022-23 competition as early overall front-runners, as the table showing the latest positions shows:

Overall Standings	
Mason	158
Boulton	131
Chamberlain	131
Austin	119

Year 7	
Mason	49
Boulton	26
Austin	19
Chamberlain	26

Year 8	
Austin	34
Mason	30
Boulton	25
Chamberlain	25

Year 9	
Chamberlain	27
Boulton	21
Mason	17
Austin	15

Year 10	
Chamberlain	20
Mason	19
Austin	16
Boulton	15

Year 11	
Boulton	25
Mason	22
Chamberlain	22
Austin	21

Year 12/13	
Mason	21
Boulton	19
Austin	14
Chamberlain	11

There have been some amazing House competitions organised by staff this year. These include a Halloween pumpkin competition (see below), Christmas wreath and tree design, Penny for the Guy, time capsule decoration and a football tournament as well as an Iron Person (triathlon) Challenge and Scavenger Hunts at Island Pool!



The trip to Portsmouth was very interesting and entertaining. We went there to visit the HMS Royal Navy Flag Ship. We visited to see the ship's interior and exterior. The pupils that went on this journey enjoyed it as it was an educational trip which had excitement and interested the students. The HMS Royal Navy Ship is the lead ship of the Queen Elizabeth class of aircraft carriers and the fleet flagship of the Royal Navy. Capable of carrying 60 aircraft including fixed wing, rotary wing and autonomous vehicles, she is named in honour of the first HMS Queen Elizabeth 1.

Inside the ship there was many different areas such as gyms, shops, a chapel and a medical centre. In my opinion the most interesting one of these was the medical centre. I found this the most interesting because it taught me a lot about different jobs such as being a nurse, doctor, dentist and many more jobs to do with science and maths. We also went to eat and the food we were given is exactly what people who travelled on this ship and what soldiers would eat every day. For food, they served us mac and cheese which in my opinion wasn't very tasty but with this we had juice, spaghetti, bread and many more options to choose out of.

After having a break and eating our lunch, we went to make paper helicopters and I enjoyed this part because it was just a little bit of fun. We also went to see the view on the top of the ship and this was the best part of the whole trip for me because the view was beautiful and I enjoyed seeing the water and watching other ships sail. The flight deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth comes in at enormous 4 acres and will be used to launch the fearsome new F35 Joint Strike Fighter fast jet 4 fighter jets can be moved from the hangar to the flight deck in just one minute. The ship's two propellers weigh 33 tones each. Overall I really enjoyed this trip as it gave me some time away from school but didn't take my education and learning time and I would definitely come again to see the view and learn more about this ship.

Savera A.

The trip to Portsmouth was a very fun and entertaining experience to Portsmouth. It helped the people who went to understand the different rooms in the HMS Royal Navy ship and the things the people do in the ship. The year 9 boys and girls liked the trip as it educated us with what the people do when they stay on the ship over night sleeping in one room with other people they had a tv with sport channels, what they eat on the ship, the options were juice/ spaghetti, bread and many more personally I didn't like it but others would disagree. We also saw what they wear to represent the navy ship. However, the most interesting thing for me was to see the inside shop which I would call a gas station and to see the view was a very nice part of the trip. Over all it was a good adventure and would recommend going to visit we learned a lot of facts and also had fun, the coach journey going there was a bit hectic but it was worth it.

Hifza.h



PE DEPARTMENT

A great end to 2022 where the success of our seasonal (team and individual sports) curriculum reflected our success in all the inter-school competitions we had entered. The students have worked extremely hard in developing their knowledge of skills, tactics and worked well in applying their skills within a game situation.

We are confident that we will continue to develop and work to be the best sporting school in the North of Birmingham

Have a wonderful festive break.

Gold School games mark

A massive thank you to the PE department who achieved a School Games Gold Mark for their participation. A massive achievement.



Year 7 football team.

The Year 7 football team currently sit top of the league table after some excellent performances so far this season. They also recently got to the semi-finals of the Aston and Saltley 5-a-side competition which featured 10 schools

Our captain and top scorer Oduwa F. has produced some special performances so far this season, along with Mhd Ceessay. Oduwa recently had trials with Aston Villa.

The Year 7 team is far from elitist though with 33 students on the list for training every Thursday and a consistent number of between 20-25 pupils attending every week!



Year 8 football team.

The year 8 football team were promoted to the Premier division of the Aston and Erdington School's Football league.

With this success we had over 40 students trial out for the squad, a great turn out. Just like the World Cup in Qatar we have been shocked by some indifferent performances. Our first two games of the season started with 2 defeats to 2 different teams..

4-2 defeat to Hamstead Hall - Touray & Jamel S.
4-2 defeat to PAH - Habibur & Tim.

We are through to the quarter finals of the league cup, where we will play Arena Academy. I am confident we will bounce back.

Year 9 football team

The year 9 football team breezed past a strong Holte football team, winning 9-2. A real collective performance from the boys.

Goals from Hakeem H (4), David Z, Javid A (3). We will play George Dixon in the semi-finals.

The league games have all been arranged for January 2023.

Year 11 football - boys.

The year 11 team are currently 3rd in the U16 Aston schools league with a good performance in their first game against Hamstead Hall. It was 1-1 at half time but some naïve defending along with some good counter-attacking goals from the opposition led to a narrow defeat.

Unfortunately, we are out of the cup, also losing to Hamstead Hall.

Hopefully more games will be arranged after Christmas, and more opportunities to get our first victory of the season!



Girls' basketball

The KS4 girls basketball team demonstrated that we are a strong sporting school. They came up against the previous year's Birmingham girl basketball champions St Paul's Girls School. The girls eventually lost 24-26.

However, some wonderful performances from Fatou, Iqra A, Aqsa K, Khadija J, Shenelle, Ayaan and Hazeera set a solid platform for girls' basketball.

A great start.

Boys' basketball

Year 9/10/11 boys

A solid start to the combined 9, 10 and 11 basketball team. A tough start against the Midlands champions Aston Manor meant that we had faced the toughest test and it was out the way, we lost 20-52.

In our second game we beat King Edwards Aston convincingly with a great result winning 48-16. Top scorer Alistar I (22 points) was given Most Valuable Player (MVP). Well done to Zubair T, Rayid M, Jakub M, Chris I, Filliepo, and Tyla H.



Year 7/8 boys

The newly formed key stage 3 boys' team is ready and looking forward to some games in January 2023. They have been training every Thursday after school from 3.10 - 4.15, working tirelessly on positional play and refining the fundamental basketball skills.

Some real prospects! A big shout out to Yusuf S, Jamel S, Golden, Ayman A, Ahmed A, Hassan L, Michael D, Nicholas,

Indoor cricket

U13

We had our first league game against Handsworth grammar school. U13 Boys gave their best effort in trying to beat them. Unfortunately, we lost by 6 wickets. Our next game is in January 2023.

Team: Farhaan F, Talhah H, Fahim Z, Mohammed A, Daniel R, Shariiaa A.

U15

An impressive performance in their first league game resulted in a victory against a strong Washwood Heath side. Up next is Waverley School who will travel to the Broadway theatre of dreams and battle it out to try to take top spot in the U15 cricket league.

Top performer

Batting - Mohammed Taiyb

Bowling - Mohammed Taiyb + Mohammed Haider



Birchfield Harriers join Broadway

Birchfield Harriers have offered to coach and develop our up-and-coming talented students at Broadway Academy. They have selected 12 students to work with this half term and will select another 12 in the New Year. The 12 students will also be invited to train at Alexander stadium.



Broadway Raiders

Broadway Raiders have had a super start to their first ever season together. The U13 team are managed by ex-student Zain and now play in the Central Warwickshire Youth League. They have played and beaten teams as far afield as Solihull and Worcester. Most of the team attend Broadway and are doing the team and school very proud.

League Table

FULL TABLE DETAIL >

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Coldlands Colts U13	8	7	1	0	22
2	S J B Juniors U13	9	5	2	2	17
3	Bournville Warriors U13	6	4	0	2	12
4	Solihull Moors Foundation U13 AJ	7	3	2	2	11
5	Arden Forest U13 Yellow	5	3	1	1	10
6	Broadway Raiders U13 Broadway Raiders FC	5	3	0	2	9
7	Alvechurch U13 CH	7	3	0	4	9
8	Inkberrow Eagles U13 CWYFL	7	2	1	4	7
9	Hillfield A F C U13 White	8	1	1	6	4
10	Bartley Reds U13	8	0	0	8	0

6th form sports academies:

The basketball academy plays in the AOC National basketball league. The academy is led by ex- England professional Michael Gayle, who has put together a bespoke individual training plan for each student.

The basketball squad train up to 15 hours a week and have played some really tough opponents. We are still developing a team that can challenge the best teams in the league. Well done to Mihnea F, Fortune H, Colin N, Stephen I, Dainis B, Joy M, Suhayb M, Osama A, and the current year 11 for their efforts during season so far.



6th form academy

The 6th form cricket academy is currently participating in the U19 Warwickshire cricket league. The team is led by Mr Siddiq and train 3 times a week.

Their fixture list is as follows:

Group 2	Fixture	Home Team	Away Team
Erdington Academy	Fixture 1	Erdington Academy	Birmingham Met College
Birmingham Met College	Fixture 2	Birmingham Met College	Small Heath
Small Heath	Fixture 3	Erdington Academy	Broadway Academy
Broadway Academy		Broadway Academy	Holte
Holte		Birmingham Met College	Broadway Academy

Home Team		Away Team	Home Team
Small Heath	v	Broadway Academy	Holte
Holte	v	Erdington Academy	Broadway Academy
Holte	v	Birmingham Met College	Small Heath
Small Heath	v	Erdington Academy	Birmingham Met College
Small Heath	v	Holte	Erdington Academy

It has been a very busy and exciting term for year 8. There have been lots of house competitions, extra-curricular events and sporting fixtures. Below are some of the highlights, which show the fun that students have had in the last few weeks.

Guy Fawkes Competition:

Students from Austin B creating the winning Guy Fawkes effigy.



Weekend Football:

Broadway Raiders have been incredible in the Central Warwickshire Youth League. They play every Sunday against teams from across the county and the team have won their last four league matches.



Pumpkin Carving Competition:

Boys get stuck into the house competition.



Lunch Time League: Students have teamed up with their friends to compete in a football league over the course of the term. It has been a great source of enjoyment for the students and led to a great level of competition and enjoyment.

	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Points
1 Austin Allstars	4	5	0	9	1	8	22.98
2 Raiders	4	4	1	17	4	13	22.83
3 Grim Reapers	4	4	1	7	2	5	21.75
4 The Kop	4	3	2	14	9	5	21.45
5 Mehroof's Magicians	2	6	1	5	7	-2	19.48
6 DS Tacheetah's FC	1	6	2	7	8	-1	17.69
7 Year 8 Allstars	2	4	3	7	11	-4	17.66
8 Girls FC	3	2	4	7	23	-16	17.54
9 Hunters Hooligan's	1	4	4	6	13	-7	15.53
10 Spongebob Squarepants FC	0	2	7	11	16	-5	12.05

Christmas Wreath Competition:

Forms have been competing to create the best Christmas wreath. The classrooms in Yellow classrooms are now looking very festive!



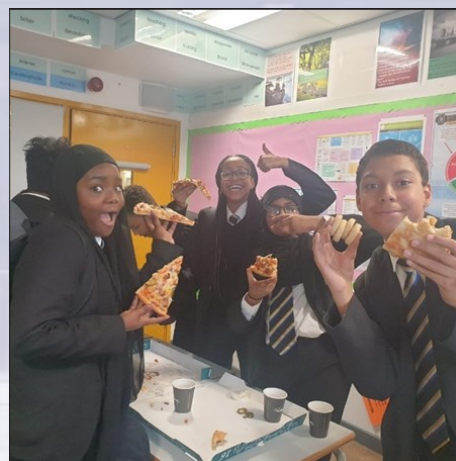
Christmas Tree Competition:

Form Groups have been competing to make the best Christmas tree designs. The winning form will win their own Christmas tree to place in their tutor room.



Pizza Party:

Boulton A had the best behaviour in the cohort last term and enjoyed Pizza and treats as a reward.





HelpinBrum

Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download Information on www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadviceteam

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice
0121 453 0606 | www.theprojectbirmingham.org
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more
0344 477 1010 | www.bcabs.org.uk
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people
03030 402 040 | www.disability.co.uk

Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at

www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp

There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam

Food Support:

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, there are several information points below which can help.

Foodbanks:

We know that accessing a foodbank or other projects for the first time can be daunting. However, the volunteers do their utmost to make visitors feel welcome.

With one visitor saying *"It was just a small personal touch that made you feel welcome and on the occasions where I was on a tiny budget, it also felt like somebody did care that times were tough."*

To find a foodbank or other food support please visit <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/foodhelp>

Healthy Start card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card.

The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy: plain liquid cow's milk; fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables; fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and infant formula milk based on cow's milk. You can also get free vitamins.

To find out more and way to apply visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/healthystart

Free School Meals

You can also check if your child can get free school meals, visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-meals to see if you are eligible. (This will also automatically register you for the Holidays, Activities and Food Programme.)

More Information Available

Even more information is available on the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum which can guide you to various organisations depending on the help you may require. Alternatively, phone 0121 303 9944 and one of our customer service team will be able to help you.

Other Support Available

There is also a lot of support at a local and national level. Here are some key contacts if you need information or guidance:

Age UK Birmingham

Information, advice and helpline services for older people (50+), their families and carers
0121 437 0479 | www.ageuk.org.uk/birmingham

Birmingham Mind

Providing advice, information and signposting for people affected by mental health issues
0121 262 3555 | www.birminghammind.org

Moneyhelper

Advice to help improve your finances
0800 138 7777 | www.moneyhelper.org.uk

Stop Loan Sharks

Investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders and provides support for borrowers
0300 555 2222 | www.stoploansharks.co.uk

Turn2Us

Information and financial support
0808 802 2000 | www.turn2us.org.uk

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Support for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse
0800 800 0028 | www.bswaid.org

Shelter

Housing advice 0808 800 4444 | www.england.shelter.org.uk

The Active Wellbeing Society

Listen and Connect support people to feel heard, connect with others, be active, live well and access information
0121 728 7030 | www.theaws.co.uk/listen-connect

The Refugee and Migrant Centre

Advice on immigration, housing & destitution, welfare & health, employment & education, resettlement and citizenship
0121 374 0140 | www.rmcentre.org.uk

Spitfire Services

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BROADWAY 6TH FORM CRICKET ACADEMY

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Dear Student,

Very soon your teacher might give you a username and password for something called Educake. Educake is an online homework and revision system for secondary schools. You can use it on your PC, tablet or smartphone by going to www.educake.co.uk.

Teachers might set homework or classwork in Educake, but students can also set themselves tests for more practice. Every question is auto-marked, and students get instant feedback.

We really hope you find Educake useful. We recently did a study at one school that uses Educake and found that students who answered more than 500 questions in Educake achieved higher GCSE scores than expected.

Here are a couple things to remember when you answer Educake questions that might be different from your paper homeworks:

- **Small spelling mistakes are okay.** For most questions in Educake, your answer can have up to two letters wrong and it'll still be accepted. If your answer is spelled too differently from the correct answer though, you won't get the mark.
- **Don't answer in complete sentences.** Educake questions have one-word answers. This is how we make sure your answers are marked properly. Note that sometimes the answer is a multiple word phrase like "gene technology".

The next page of this letter will show you how Educake works. If you have any questions, you can always talk to your teacher about Educake, or you can email us at support@educake.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Charley Darbishire
Founder and MD
Educake



When you use Educake as a student, you see this page first:

When your teacher has set you a test, it'll be here. Click on it to take it. Your progress is always saved, so you can return to it later.

The screenshot shows the Educake student dashboard. At the top, there's a header with the Educake logo, 'Online Revision and Practice', a 'Contact Us' button, and user information for 'Oxford School' (Year 11, Class: Y11 51, Frank Capra) with a 'log out' link. Below the header, the 'My Educake' section shows a notification: 'Your teachers have set you 1 new test...'. A table lists the test: 'Physics' (P2 - Current, resistance and potential difference) set by 'Mr O'Leary' with 25 questions, available 146 days ago. Below this, the 'Educake Smart Assistant' suggests tests based on weaknesses, such as 'Maths for Science' (15 questions) and 'Chemistry' (15 questions). A section for 'most recently completed tests' shows three tests: 'Biology' (Photosynthesis 1, Gas Exchange in Plants, 30 questions, 70% score), 'Biology' (Diffusion, Photosynthesis 1, Gas Exchange in..., 30 questions, 70% score), and 'Physics' (P2 - Resistors, 33 questions, 64% score). On the left, there are buttons for 'Key Stage 3 Science' (Answer 10 Random Questions, Set Yourself a Test, View Your Test Results, View Your Results by Topic) and 'GCSE Science - AQA' (Answer 10 Random Questions). On the right, there are sections for 'Reports' (View Your Report) and 'Help' (Change Your Password, Enable password recovery, What Do You Think of Educake?).

You might see the Educake Smart Assistant, which calculates your strengths and weaknesses and sets you exactly the tests you need to improve. Take the tests to improve your knowledge and understanding.

Here are the tests you've completed. Click on one to go over your results and see if your teachers have left you any feedback.

View your own Educake report, showing you your strongest and weakest topics, and lots more.

Set yourself an Educake test. You can choose the topics and how many questions you want.

Save your mobile number or email here, so you can access Educake even if you forget your password.

INFORMATION FROM THE DFE.

Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections

The Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, is closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) and scarlet fever. As a Department, we are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who are leading on the response.

UKHSA is reporting an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year. There is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever

A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel

On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise parents to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, advise they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Encourage parents to trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.