

15 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Brooklands Academy, we are committed to supporting every student to become healthy, safe, resilient and responsible young people, where they can **belong, learn and achieve**. We are therefore writing to share information on our holistic provision for the Autumn term.

Alongside students' academic studies and success, our holistic curriculum prepares students to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Please see below an overview of our holistic provision this half-term:

Attendance, Punctuality and Tutor Time

The first 30 minutes of each school day form an important part of our holistic curriculum, providing students with valuable opportunities for Wellbeing and House activities, Community sessions, assemblies, and our Behaviour Curriculum.

We therefore expect all students to arrive on time so they can fully participate in this programme and start each day positively. Students should aim to arrive **before the school gates close at 8:20am**. Those arriving after this time, but **before 9:00am**, must enter via the **Late Gate** and will receive a **20-minute same-day break-time reflection** (not an after-school detention).

Students arriving **after 9:00am**, without medical evidence or another authorised reason, will receive a **C3 (punctuality) sanction**, resulting in a **30-minute after-school reflection** the following day. Arrival after 9:00am is recorded as a half-day absence for statutory Department for Education attendance reporting purposes.

Character Development

Our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum is taught through timetabled fortnightly Character Development sessions with your child's Form Tutor. Character Development equips students with the skills, knowledge and values needed to thrive in school and beyond, such as personal growth and wellbeing, developing positive relationships and making responsible decisions.

Throughout their time at Brooklands Academy, students follow a spiral curriculum, meaning that our core topics are revisited each year, with each return exploring the theme in greater depth and with increasing complexity. Our core topics for this term are **Respect and Mental Health/ Wellbeing**. Access to our PSHE policy is on our school website, and termly Character Development updates will be shared in our curriculum newsletters.

Safeguarding, Student Welfare, Mental health and Wellbeing provision

We have had a number of external speakers visit us this half-term, such as Network Rail, who delivered rail safety talks to Year 9 and 10, and iCaSH (an NHS service) who provided information on their services, contraception and staying safe for our Years 9, 11 and 13 students. They will be re-joining us in early November for our Year 10 and 12 students.

We also have the Kiyan Prince Foundation joining us this week to deliver an anti-knife crime session titled 'The Power of Choice'. PC Jade Trower, our Safer Schools Police Officer, will be leading an age-appropriate assembly for Year 7 students on knife crime as part of Thames Valley Police's ongoing partnership with schools across Milton Keynes. Pete Woodbridge, a Contextual Safeguarding Practitioner from Milton Keynes City Council, is also continuing to provide small group sessions with Year 8 students, which are designed to help them identify signs of possible exploitation and know where and how to report them.

This half-term, we held a co-construction session with staff from Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue for a small group of students from Years 8, 9 and 10.

In September, we hosted our first E-Safety Advice and Information evening for Year 7 parents/carers. This shared important information regarding current online risks, emerging safeguarding concerns and awareness of privacy, security and positive digital ownership. Online safety remains a priority, so please look out for further information on our next E-Safety parent/carer event in November.

Enrichment

Since returning in September, we have been delighted to offer more than **40** enrichment clubs for students to participate in this term. For the first time, we have partnered with external providers to deliver exciting enrichment opportunities, including Fitness, Cooking, DJing, Stop Motion Animation and Taekwondo. Alongside these new opportunities, many of our popular internal clubs have returned, including Friendship Bracelet Making, Pride Club, Crochet, Science Club, Football and Chess, to name just a few. We have also introduced several new clubs, including British Sign Language, Cosmetic Creations, Culture Connections, Book Club and Chinese Board Games.

We are incredibly grateful to all staff members who generously give their time to provide these fantastic experiences for our students. All enrichment clubs are available to view and book through Arbor. Students must be signed up before attending so that we can accurately monitor who remains on site after school. If students stay after school, they must attend either an enrichment club or an intervention session. For a full list of our enrichment clubs please see our Enrichment Booklet on the school website [Brooklands Academy - Enrichment](#)

Brooklands Buzz

This year, we are also delighted to launch The Brooklands Buzz, our student-led magazine. Edited by our student editorial team, the newspaper provides students with the opportunity to write about school events, offer advice, and share articles on school life, the environment and entertainment. Students interested in contributing can speak to Mrs Hake, Mrs Champion or email TheBuzz@bla5d.com.

Creating a Wellbeing Garden

Under the leadership of Mrs Kenny-Davis, we are developing an exciting wellbeing garden. Plans for the space include an outdoor classroom, a greenhouse built by students using recycled plastic water bottles, flower beds, a polytunnel and a sensory garden.

We hope this area will become a valuable space for outdoor learning while also supporting student wellbeing. We are currently seeking support from anyone who may be able to assist with the construction of the garden. If you think you can help, please contact Mrs Kenny-Davis via email.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

DofE is an exciting opportunity for our students to develop their leadership, teamwork and critical thinking skills. Our students gain independence and confidence through completing and taking responsibility of their Physical, Skills, Volunteering and Expedition sections.

We are pleased to announce that we had 160 students taking part in DofE last year and we have maintained our 100% pass rate on our Silver and Gold awards. We are really proud of our students for their hard work to complete their DofE and this is a massive achievement for them.

The Bronze Award is available to students in Year 9 and above, while Silver and Gold Awards are open to students who have successfully completed the previous level. We are fortunate that students can complete all aspects of their DofE programme through activities offered at Brooklands, including the Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections.

Post-16 Opportunities

Our Post-16 students now have the opportunity to establish and lead their own societies. Current student-led societies include Science, Law, Music, South Asian Culture and Film.

These societies allow students to take ownership of their enrichment experiences while developing valuable leadership, organisation and communication skills. They also provide excellent opportunities for students to demonstrate their interests and commitment when applying for universities, apprenticeships and other post-18 pathways.

We are also encouraging Post-16 students to volunteer in lower school lessons. This initiative supports future applications by enabling students to demonstrate subject passion, develop communication skills and gain experience explaining complex concepts to younger learners.

The students who have already begun volunteering have proven to be excellent role models for our younger students, inspiring them to think positively about their own future educational journeys.

Wednesday last week was the start of the 5D Cup, a series of competitions between the sixth forms of each 5 Dimension School. The Cup started with tournaments for football, netball and badminton. We hope to host and take part in more interschool competitions over the course of the upcoming year.

House

After the Earth House won the House Competition last year, we are looking to restart our House Competition after half term. Competitions last year included: Dodgeball, Boules, Music, Book and Science Quizzes. We are really looking forward to putting on some brand-new competitions for our students this year and more details will follow in the next newsletter about what we get up to.

Working Together

We will continue to share regular updates through newsletters, our website and social media channels to keep families informed about our current holistic provision.

We value the important role that parents and carers play in supporting our holistic curriculum, and we remain committed to working in partnership with families to ensure the vital messages students receive in school are reinforced at home. Opportunities to provide feedback will be made available throughout the year, helping us to continually develop and improve our provision.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our young people develop into confident, respectful and successful members of society.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Brown
Subject Leader for Character Development