

Be INSPIRED.
Be OUTSTANDING.
Be BRED A.



BREDA. Merry Christmas

the bulletin



Mr Perry

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the midst of these challenging and difficult times I am very proud of how our school community works together to support each other and our young people.

Throughout the 'Lockdown' period, staff organised and produced food parcels which were delivered each month for four months to over 100 families in our school community, who just needed a little help in tough times. Again, the staff have kindly donated food and non-food items to produce Christmas hampers and these were delivered last week to over 120 families to help support them over the Christmas period. It was our pleasure to do this and share our kindness at Christmas!

Our young people need stability, support, friendship, love and care. This is why a thriving, successful Breda Academy is so vital to help provide them with what they deserve. Therefore, I kindly urge you to make your voices heard with regards to the current education plan for South and East Belfast by posting your response form before the end of December to meet the return deadline of 20th January 2021.



In these challenging times, my staff have worked tirelessly to guide and support all our talented young people to keep them safe, meet their needs, enjoy school and make progress in their learning. As well as the staff, our students have responded with such a positive and resilient approach to the challenges brought about by the current Coronavirus pandemic. This was very noticeable in our recent winter examinations week when it was clearly evident students wanted to fully engage and perform well in their exams and were so motivated to achieve good grades. I am especially pleased that for the past five years our examination results have continued to increase. In the last two consecutive years, our Year 12 students achieved just shy of 80% 5 or more A* - C GCSE or equivalent grades and over 55% of our Year 14 students achieved 3 A* - C A Level or equivalent grades, which is record breaking in the history of Breda Academy!

We continue to **MOVE FORWARD** as a community and in September we welcomed 112 Year 8 students who are now flourishing and enjoying school. The 6th Form continues to thrive and we currently have over 170 Year 13 and 14 students studying A-Level and Level 3 qualifications. I am delighted that after their 7-year

journey with us, our recent Year 14 leavers have been **MOVING FORWARD** to take up their place at a prestigious university, start an apprenticeship or begin their working career.

It is now time for us all to take a well-earned Christmas break! This is the perfect time to reflect on what is precious to us, to be grateful for what we have, to spend time with our loved ones and maybe watch some cheesy Christmas movies together! To laugh with each other, have fun, and share presents.

I often find the best present you can give to someone dear to you or even to a stranger, is words of praise and acts of kindness, however simple or small. I will certainly try my best to do this over Christmas, but, I think my teenagers will also want me to give them lots of presents to unwrap!

On behalf of the staff at Breda Academy I would like to wish you and your family a very healthy, happy and enjoyable Christmas period and I look forward to a brighter New Year!

My very best wishes and kind regards,

Mr P. Perry - Principal



SENIOR PREFECTS



HEAD BOY: [Jordan McClean](#)

HEAD GIRL: [Hannah Cockcroft](#)

DEPUTY HEAD BOY: [Adrian Drahota](#)

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL: [Maria Teixeira](#)

SENIOR PREFECTS: [Katie-Ann English](#)
[Chantel Laverty](#)
[Abigail McGoogan](#)
[Klaudia Olszewska](#)
[Katie Oslon](#)
[Aimee Woods](#)
[Kian Hallam](#)
[Matas Krisciunas](#)
[Kalen Stewart](#)

HEAD BOY & GIRL AND DEPUTIES



Jordan McClean (Alexander Dickson Primary School)
Head Boy

What A Levels are you studying?

I am currently studying Business Studies, Product Design and Religious Studies.

What are your plans for when you leave school?

I plan to study Product Design at University.

What have you most enjoyed about Breda Academy?

The opportunity to meet lifelong friends, while developing skills and knowledge that I will take with me through life.

Why did you want to be Head Boy?

I have really enjoyed my time at Breda Academy and I want to ensure that the students in the years below me experience the pleasant and positive time I have had.

What do you hope to achieve in your role?

I want to prioritise that all students feel heard, that their opinion is valued and that their issues are addressed with a suitable solution.

What do you like to do outside of school?

I enjoy attending church and spending time volunteering at a cross community kids' club where I organise games and events for children. In my spare time, I enjoy exploring the outdoors by hiking in the Mourne's and cycling in my local area.

Have you any advice for younger pupils?

I believe that you get back what you put in, so I want to encourage students to put in the effort and hard work in school, to experience the good time that I have had.

Hannah Cockcroft (Harding Memorial Primary School)
Head Girl

What A Levels are you studying?

Psychology, Religious Studies and Health & Social Care

What are your plans for when you leave school?

To go to university to get a degree in Theology and possibly go on to become a teacher after I graduate.

What have you most enjoyed about Breda Academy?

I have enjoyed meeting great people such as the teachers who continue to be supportive role models and making lifelong friends.

Why did you want to be Head Girl?

I wanted to be Head Girl because I wanted to be a role model to younger students by being someone that everyone feels comfortable to talk to.

What do you hope to achieve in your role?

I want to make sure that every pupil's voice is heard regarding issues and choices that affect them and the school community. I hope to make a positive change within the school to make it a comfortable environment for growing and learning.

What do you like to do outside of school?

Outside of school I continue to do dance as I have for the past fourteen years. I usually take classes four times a week but because of the current restrictions I am only attending two classes. I am also involved with my youth and church serving on the welcome team.

Have you any advice for younger pupils?

My advice to younger pupils would be to learn from your mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes, especially in school, so I would say to learn to take your mistakes as something to grow from.



#proudtobebreda

Photography Competition

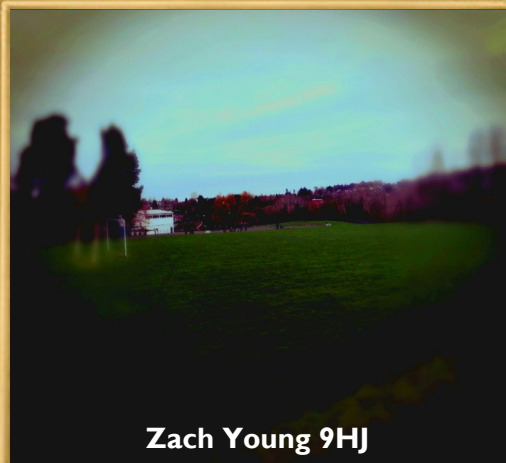
Our students were asked to capture the season of Autumn by taking a photograph of our beautiful school grounds. Here are the winners ...



Abigail McGoogan 14CT



Paige Devine 9HJ



Zach Young 9HJ

KS3

ART COMPETITION



Jade Cook 10WD



Inishka Phillips 8CA



Emma McCleary 9JM



Sock Snowmen



Materials

- Large white sock
- Fuzzy sock
- Orange/black pipe cleaner
- Hot glue gun
- Black sharpie
- Twine
- 2-3 Buttons

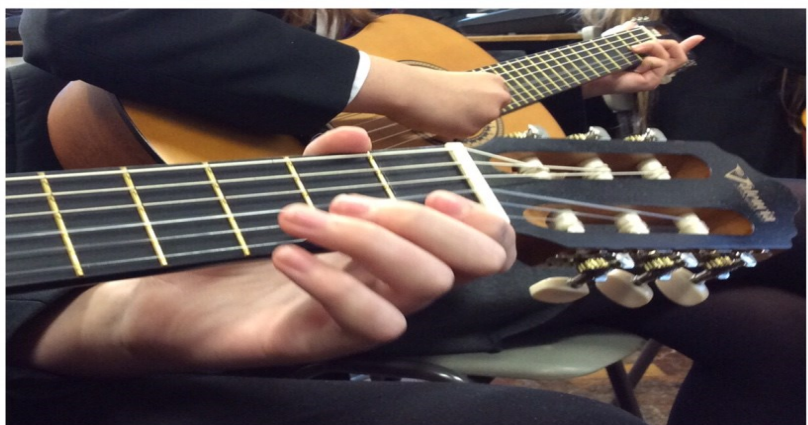


Instructions

1. Cut the large white sock a little above where the heel goes. Fill with some rice.
2. Tie a knot at the top of the sock.
3. Use a piece of twine and tie it around the sock so it creates 2 parts to the snowman.
4. Cut the fuzzy sock on the end for the hat. Put it on top of the rice sock and tie twine around the tip to make a pom pom type hat. Cut a strip for the scarf with the fuzzy sock.
5. Cut 2 tiny pieces of black pipe cleaner, put a dot of hot glue on the snowman's face and stick the pipe cleaner through where you want the eyes. Repeat. Cut a small piece of orange pipe cleaner for the nose. Hot glue and stick in.
6. Use a sharpie and make the snowman's mouth.

So why not stay indoors
and do some Christmas
crafts?

In the Music Department our pupils have been busy learning new topics and building on their practical skills. Our junior school pupils have been learning about the Elements of Music, Rhythm, the Music of Africa and Blues Music. Year 9 in particular have enjoyed the African drumming and learning to play the fabulous music from The Lion King.



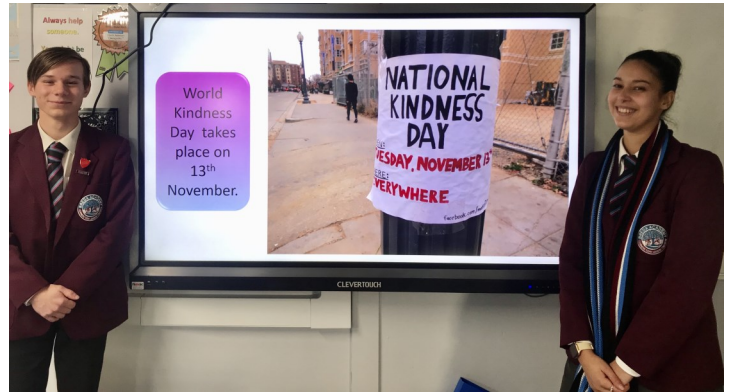


World Kindness Day

Respect and kindness are paths that open doors, and that is why our school promotes these behaviours amongst the entire school community.

During **World Kindness Day**, the Kindness Ambassadors, Maria Teixeira and Adrian Drahota carried out an activity with the help of

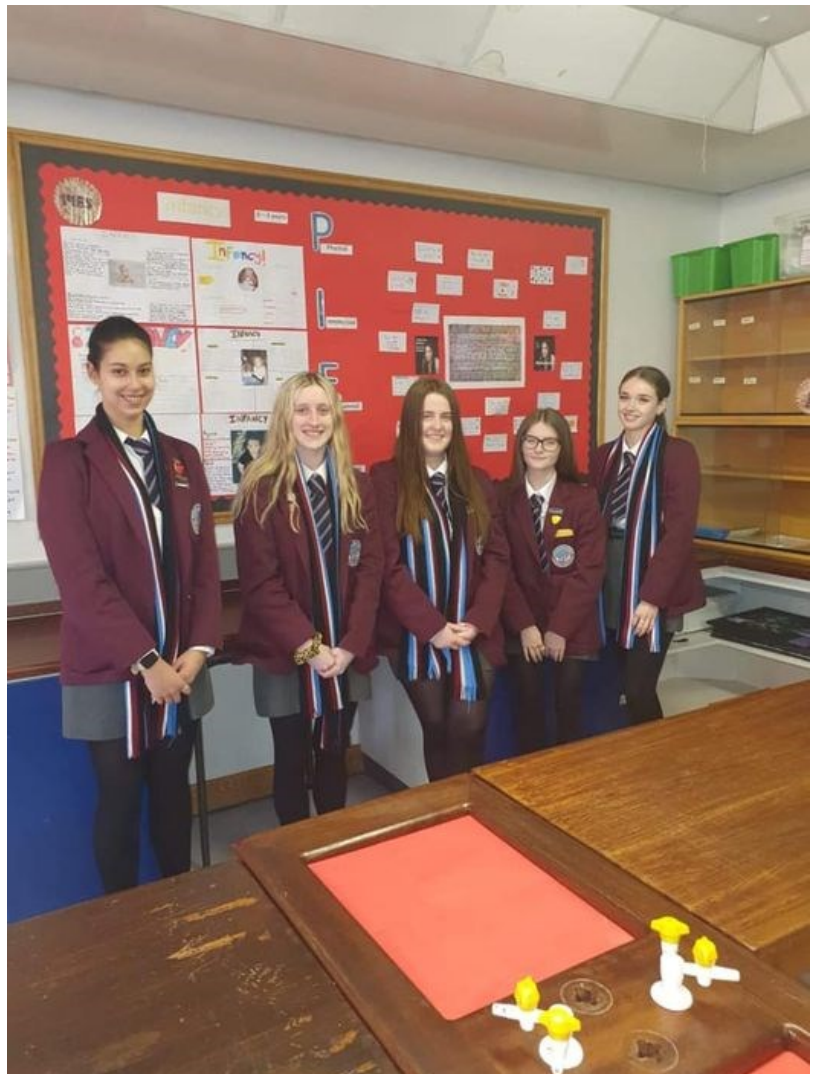
our Year 8 pupils. In this activity, properly sanitised plastic cards were created and distributed. In this way, even during difficult times, Breda Academy students continue to work towards a pleasant work environment, establishing bonds of friendship and compassion. The aim of this project was to be role models for Kindness and to say thank you for the effort and hard work of the teachers at our school. In addition to the cards, some messages of thanks were also distributed. The school community at Breda Academy is working hard to ensuring that Breda continues to be a kind school. What about you? Have you been kind today?



Health and Social Care Department

Congratulations to Aimie Welsh who has been selected as a 'Subject ambassador' to represent the Health & Social Care department. Aimie is passionate about Health & Social Care as a subject, and is very enthusiastic to share her knowledge and understanding with others within the school community. It is hoped Aimie will play a pivotal role within the department.

Congratulations to Hannah Cockcroft, Jasmine Girvin, Maria Teixeira and Holly Glover who have been chosen to become 'peer mentors'. Their role is to support Year 13 Health & Social Care students with their studies. These girls are experienced students who can provide leadership to our year 13 classes. We hope they can offer support, attention, kindness and serve as role models.



School Council

Key Stage 3

Anna Faulkner
Cody Houston
Connor Leschinsky
Elise McCulloch
Hannah Dobbin
Jack Green
Karl McCoy
Katie Campbell
Kirsty Harper
Luke McConnell
Nikola Walczak
Olivia Davison
Rose Wright
Tommy-Lee Dono
Zach Young

Key Stage 4

Connie McCormick
Hannah Hoyles
Joe McCamley
Jodi Russell
Kelsey Farnhill
Tyler McKee

Key Stage 5

Abigail McGoogan
Jodie Clarke
Kalen Stewart
Katie-Ann English
Sophie McKenzie
Jordan McClean
Hannah Cockcroft

#thisiscommunity

At Breda Academy, our School Council is run and led by the children, supported by a member of staff, and takes an active role in making decisions and suggestions on behalf of the children in the school.

Our Key Stage School Councils meet on a half-termly cycle. Each Key Stage School Council elected two members to represent their Key Stage on the School Council. They meet on a half-termly cycle. The meetings are chaired by Head Boy (Jordan McClean) and Head Girl (Hannah Cockcroft) and facilitated by Mrs Glover and their Head of Key Stage.

Key topics discussed at meeting one included the school council code of conduct and returning to a new school year. It was a great opportunity for the students to communicate how they have found their return to school and to discuss the changes that have been put in place for their safety. They had some great ideas around these topics and will discuss how to move forward with these at the next meeting.

Through our School Council we aim to develop young leadership skills, whilst supporting student democracy. Most importantly, our strong team of Councillors aim to promote the well-being of the children within our school. This is a very important role within the school community and an exciting opportunity for all students involved.

Public Services

Lots of active learning has been taking place

in the Public Services Year 13 Politics classes. To celebrate Parliament Week, the class took part in an interactive lesson with Westminster Parliament. They learnt how the UK is governed, as well as taking a virtual tour round the House of Commons and The House of Lords. They also were comparing the different systems of voting used in the UK: First Past the Post in general elections and STV in Northern Ireland Assembly elections. This was all capped off by taking part in a virtual election workshop.

We also had a socially distanced visit from one of our local councillors, Nathan Anderson. Nathan explained how Northern Ireland was governed, focusing on the work of the local councils. Nathan gave the class a series of tasks to complete, where they had to use a variety of problem solving skills to find solutions to community issues that the council faces. A lot easier said than done! However, the class rose to the occasion and came up with workable and practical solutions, which gave them an insight into the workings of our local councils.

CINEMAGIC

held an online film festival during October/ November and some of our pupils took part in these workshops and watched a selection of short films and reviewed their favourites.

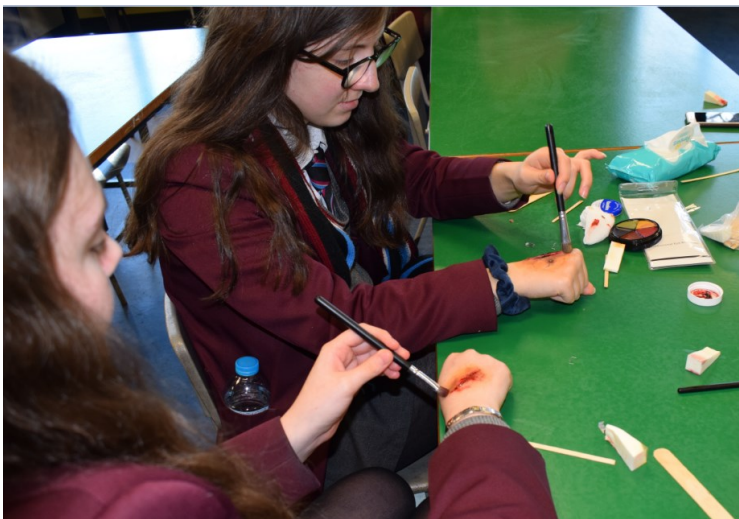
Pupils in 8CA watched a collection of new live action short films for young people celebrating the short form of movie storytelling. From a young girl trying to make friends on her first day in a new school, to a boy facing up to his fears and his family; to a man who seems to have lost everything, until a young girl shows him the way home. They received film reviewing tips and then had to review the films looking at the acting, camera, sound, special effects and storyline.



Year 13 Moving Image Arts students were treated to a tutorial to show how the 'mask' of genre can transform stories, bringing out their visual and cinematic qualities. The workshop revealed how crucial it is to identify the correct genre for a story, identify themes and ideas that can benefit from a genre treatment, demonstrate how genres can open up stories to wider audiences and show how genres make narratives entertaining and cinematic. The tutorial was followed by a selection of short films called SUPER DARK TALES.

Year 11 and 14 Moving Image Arts students took part in a workshop watching special effects artists online teach pupils the basic skills and techniques of make-up artistry! They then got the opportunity to try out for themselves how to create bruises and scars, etc. and loved creating the most gruesome special effects they could.

The pupils loved being part of this online film festival this year, but we have to admit, we missed going to the cinema to watch these films!



TEACHING & LEARNING @ BREDA ACADEMY



Dear Zog

I am writing because I want you to come visit my planet.

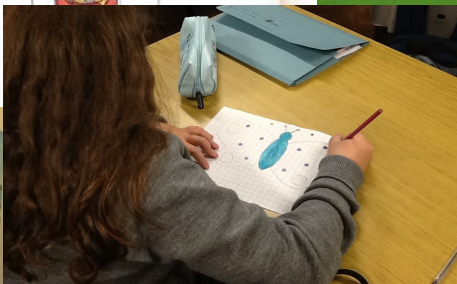
I live on planet earth in Belfast in Northern Ireland and my planet is really good and fun.

My planet is good because we have water for everyone to drink, we have oxygen so we can breath, we have mountains and trees, we also have 195 countries and 8 billion people to meet. We have food to eat and some food grow out of trees and plants such as carrots, potatoes and other vegetables. We have humans who are really nice like my family and many more other people.

When you visit we should go to places like the Giants Cause Way, Dublin and Baybopartho and more like Newcastle because they are the top places to go in Northern Ireland.

Thank you for reading my letter. Hope to see you very soon on earth.

by, Olivia



The pupils in the year 12 GCSE Art class have been busy making some beautiful ceramics in the art room during after school sessions.



Poetry Corner

'Of Mice and Men'

Lennie wants rabbits
Whit looks for fun
Candy has no hand
And Curley jumps the gun.

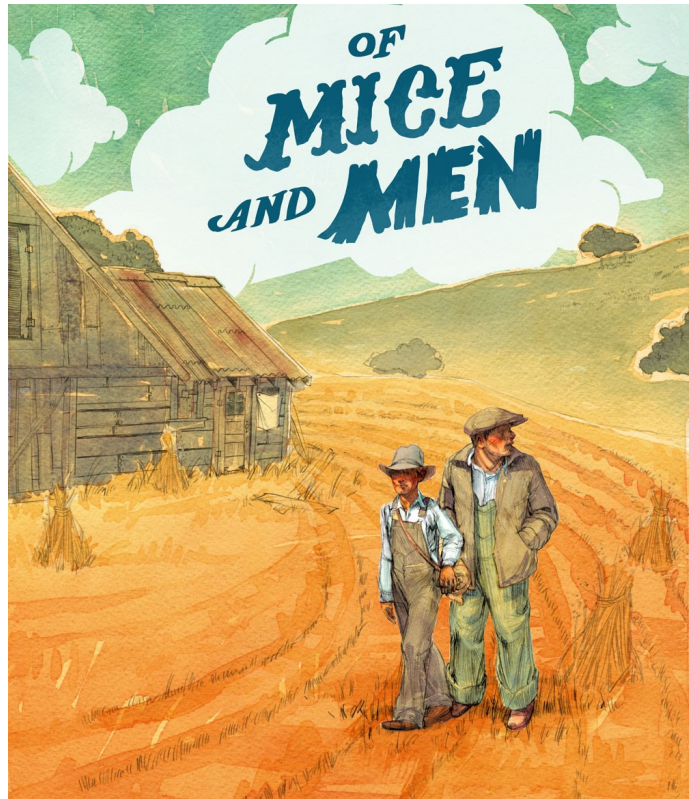
Curley's wife is lonely
Whilst Slim is embrative
Crooks looks for companionship
And Carlson is abrasive.

Candy's dog and Lennie,
Both shot through the head
Nothing but loyal,
But better off dead.

Curley's wife is dead,
Lying on the hay
Her face relaxed and beautiful
The pain has gone away.

George had a dream,
To live forever with his friend,
But when his friend was shot,
The dream came to an end.

Curley does boxing,
Yet his dream was squished,
When he picked a fight with Lennie,
And flopped like a fish.



*Year 11 English classes have been studying
'Of Mice and Men' (1937) by John Steinbeck.*

All these individuals,
Focused on their dreams,
Hoping for the day to come,
When they can up and leave.

But the days never came,
Their dreams were set to fail,
Not all dreams do come true,
Is the message of this tale.

By Hollie McKay 11KM



We asked our Year 8 pupils for their views about Breda Academy. Here's what they said ...



Chloe Parker 8CB - Moneyrea Primary School

My first term was very different to anything I have ever experienced. I came from a small primary school and when I moved it was a big change, but a good one! Not only was I nervous about starting a new school, but this year had a new challenge; Covid-19.

The routines at school took a bit of getting used to, but it is now like second nature. The teachers are so nice and really make you feel like you can succeed in whatever you are doing. I have made new friends, who make it fun at break and lunchtime. The subjects are very different to primary school, but in a good way and I like moving classrooms, so you don't get bored of looking at the same walls! The new languages are fun to learn and practise - even if your family thinks you are going mad! Going on the bus has also been a new challenge, which has also taught me time management.

At the end of my first term, I can say I am 'Proud to be Breda!'

Rose Wright 8MA - Knockbreda Primary School

Hi, I'm Rose. I've just finished my first term in year 8 at Breda Academy and it was so much fun! I have loved getting to know my new classmates and meeting my teachers. I really enjoy doing all the different subjects and my favourite ones are Science and H.E. It has taken me a while to remember my way around the school, so every day has been like a new adventure! I have loved every minute at Breda Academy so far. Learners today, leaders tomorrow!

Kirsty Harper 8BM - Lisnasharragh Primary School

My favourite thing about Breda has been meeting my best friends: Rio and Angel. I love coming to school and seeing them. It's so fun when it's break and lunch. We play 'Among Us', hide and seek and just run! I love having them in my life. I love Mrs Sweeney as she is so sweet and kind. I also love Mr Mills with his humour during registration.

Adrian Stan 8CA - Euston Street Primary School

My favourite subject is PE where we get to play football and basketball. My friends and I have fun and I'm getting more kit. All of my friends go to Breda and we play together at break and lunch. We are also able to play football at lunchtime.

Sophie McKee 8JL - Lisnasharragh Primary School

Hi, I'm Sophie McKee. The best part about Breda is it's safe and I have a lot of friends here. Also, the teachers really get to know you and make every lesson fun! Breda has excellent GCSE results as well. My favourite teachers are Mrs Begemann, my English teacher and Mr Darragh, my Geography teacher.

Junior Mallen 8LT - Knockbreda Primary School

The best part of being at Breda is it's fun and I get to see my friends while I learn. My favourite subject is History, because I love to learn about what happened in the past. Mrs Anderson is my favourite teacher because she is kind to me and also motivates me! At break and lunch times I really enjoy playing football with my friends and having lots of fun!





Mrs Seal

What advice would you give your younger self?

Don't worry about "looking silly" - take every opportunity life gives you to have fun, if people laugh at you: laugh with them!

Why did you want to become a teacher?

As a dyslexic, I wanted to become an English teacher because I understand what it is like to find something you really want to do difficult (I always loved reading books even if I was very slow at it) and that, with a bit of determination, you can achieve your goals regardless of circumstance.

What were you like when you were at school?

In the slightly edited words of Avril Lavigne "she was a skater girl", I was a total tomboy who loved building ramps and messing about on bikes and skateboards. As a result I spent a lot of time at the local A&E (I was actually on first name terms with the receptionist due to the frequency of my visits). I lived for black eye liner and trousers so wide that they soaked up every puddle between my house and the park. Any spare cash I had from my waitressing job was spent on gig tickets so I could spend hours queueing normally in the cold and rain to be squashed within an inch of my life in the mosh pit. I was really into drama so spent a lot of time in rehearsals for plays that I then forced my friends and family to come watch.

Have you any secret talents?

I have a brown belt in kickboxing and used to do salsa dancing competitions in my early 20s (it's been a while, but I can still bust a move on the dancefloor).



Mr McSorley

I wanted to become a teacher as I love working with young people. I also love teaching my favourite subjects: RE and History. Outside of work I enjoy playing/watching football and going to church. I also love a wee trip to Anfield to watch the Reds or Windsor to watch the GAWA! I love travelling so a tour around Asia (China, Japan, Korea etc) is a dream trip and is definitely on my bucket list.

The young people in Breda Academy are incredible, that's definitely the best thing about the school!



Mrs Parsons

Why did you want to become a teacher?

Before I went into teaching, I worked at a Global Pharma company, where I thought I would be able to make a difference. The Company was so big and based in the USA, so I could not see how I was making a difference. It was then I decided to change career and went into teaching. I do hope I can now make a difference as I can see students reach their goals in ICT and a number have been captivated by IT and now work in the industry. That's good enough for me and I hope I can captivate a few from Breda Academy as I can see so much potential here.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I live for my family and my dog, so life is spent outdoors as much as possible, either walking or in the garden. To relax, I love DIY and Pilates.

What do you most enjoy about Breda Academy?

I love the variety of every day here at Breda and I love to see the students do their best.

What's on your bucket list?

I have a lot of things on my bucket list but the most exciting thing I have is my plan to visit China and travel up the Yangtze River. I will need to do it soon as there is a major concern about the building of the Dams on the River and their engineering, for example the 2.5km long, Hydro-electric dam, called the Three Gorges that has been put under pressure by this year's Monsoon Season. So Roll on to the time when we can travel again.

Miss McMurray

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoy meeting up with my friends, going on walks and shopping.



Are you looking forward to Christmas?

Yes, I can't wait for Christmas. I'm looking forward to spending time with my family.

What did you most enjoy when you went to school?

When I was at school I really enjoyed art. My love for art inspired me to go to University and do a degree in Ceramics.

What's on your bucket list?

On my bucket list I have many different things I would like to do. Some of these things would include: seeing the Northern Lights, visiting Hawaii and also going on a cruise.

Mrs Brittain

Hello there. I am really enjoying being here at Breda Academy with you all and cannot quite believe that the Christmas season is nearly upon us! I am really looking forward to the holidays and even though this year will see a different slant on being together and the giving and receiving of gifts, I truly believe that after the year we have all had it will be one that we remember for many years to come. I am secretly hoping that MY presents have all been sorted! I have been dropping hints for some time now as I need a new smoker for my bees and new pair of gloves to keep the stings at bay would be most welcome. I have one bee hive in my garden and I enjoy watching the bees come and go. If you are interested in bee keeping come and have a chat! I would also like a new pair of running shoes. My current ones have holes in them and I am hoping that I will run better (and more often) if a new pair were to come my way. I started running when I was at school in England. I think I liked it because cross country meant we could leave the school grounds which I would do as often as I could! I also enjoyed being part of the school play every year - looking back I was pretty awful at acting but I can say I really loved being on the stage. These days I enjoy cycling. Years ago I cycled from the south to the north of the Japanese islands and raised money for charity. I think I would like to do another big cycle and have been thinking of cycling from Belfast to London. My New Year's resolution will no doubt be to start training.

A very happy Christmas to you all.



Good Luck

to all those students who will be sitting GCSE modules or BTEC exams in January!

Do you know the answer?

The first pupil to go to Miss Heaney's room with the CORRECT answer will win a prize!

$$\text{Christmas Tree} + \text{Christmas Tree} + \text{Christmas Tree} = 21$$

$$\text{Christmas Tree} \times \text{Reindeer} + \text{Christmas Tree} = 49$$

$$\text{Red Scarf} \times \text{Red Scarf} + \text{Reindeer} = 22$$

$$\text{Christmas Tree} + \text{Reindeer} \times \text{Red Scarf} = ?$$

If any parents of Primary school pupils would like to know more about Breda Academy, the following members of staff will be happy to speak to you:

- ♦ Mr Galbraith (Head of Year 8)
- ♦ Mrs Parry (Head of Key Stage 3)
- ♦ Mrs Scott (Vice Principal)



Christmas Quiz

(answers on the last page)

1. When Ross can't find a Santa outfit in time for Christmas in *Friends*, what does he dress up as instead to impress his son Ben?

- a. A Christmas pudding
- b. A sheep
- c. An Armadillo

2. How old is Kevin McCallister in *Home Alone*?

- a. 8
- b. 11
- c. 6

3. In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, what do the Dursleys give Harry for Christmas?

- a. Nothing
- b. 50p
- c. One chocolate coin

4. In which children's book is it '*always winter but never Christmas*'?

- a. The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
- b. The Gruffalo
- c. The Grinch

5. What is the name of the giant snow monster who guards Elsa's palace in *Frozen*?

- a. Fluffy
- b. Marshmallow
- c. Yeti



6. Dr Seuss's The Grinch attempts to steal Christmas from which unsuspecting town?

- a. Whoville
- b. Grinchville
- c. Christmasville

7. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?

- a. Japan
- b. America
- c. Germany



8. What colour are mistletoe berries?

- a. Red
- b. Green
- c. White

9. What did turkeys in Norfolk wear in Victorian England when they were walked to London?

- a. Santa Hats
- b. Boots
- c. Tights

10. What has Santa confessed to doing in this year's Tesco Christmas advert?

- a. 'I might have gone on holiday.'
- b. 'I might have shaved my beard.'
- c. 'I might have bought all the toilet rolls.'





#thisiscommunity

Merry
Christmas from
Breda Academy!

*We look forward to seeing our students return to
school on Tuesday, 5th January 2021.*

Quiz answers

1 c, 2 a, 3 b, 4 a, 5 b, 6 a, 7 a, 8 c, 9 b, 10 a.