

Be INSPIRED.
Be OUTSTANDING.
Be BREDA.

BREDA.



the bulletin



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope our Easter Bulletin finds you well and like me, looking forward to hopefully enjoying the warmer, brighter and longer days of Spring!

“Easter is time for joy and reflection on our many blessings. As we welcome spring, we are reminded of the beauty and gifts of the natural World and are given hope. This has been a challenging year, however there is still so much for which to be grateful. Bright days are ahead.”

As the Easter break approaches, I believe it is a time to connect and/or reconnect with family and friends, reflect, and appreciate all that is positive and good in our life; it is a time that reminds us of sacrifice and forgiveness. As Martin Luther King once said, “We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He/she who is devoid of forgiveness is devoid of the power to love.” And Easter also represents hope and optimism, and as Sir Winston Churchill once said, “For myself I am an optimist as it does not seem to be much use being anything else.”

The beauty of working with young people is that they on the whole are tolerant of each other, they do forgive and move on, and also look at their future wide-eyed with excitement and optimism. As we get older, we must not lose sight of these mind-set strengths and work together to ensure our young people have a bright future to look forward to. Our students can look forward with hope for a positive future, as they have the opportunity to attend and embrace what our school provides, and if they persevere and work hard for 7 years, they can leave our school with the necessary qualifications and skills to attend a university, engage in an apprenticeship and/or successfully access the workplace to pursue a chosen career. And I am sure you will join me in wishing all our Years 12 and 14 students the best of luck in their summer examinations and coursework moderation.

Here at Breda Academy, our teaching and support staff continue to work tirelessly to meet the needs of our students, ensure they make progress in their learning,

develop their skills and abilities, support their wellbeing, and provide them with as many exciting enrichment opportunities and experiences as possible. I am especially excited that 11 Year 13 students will go to Tanzania for two weeks this June accompanied by Mr Armstrong and Mrs Glasgow with all expenses paid by the ‘Turing’ scheme in connection with ‘Challenges Abroad’, to engage in a Global Citizen project, and 70 students will go to Bulgaria for a one-week skiing holiday in January 2024 organised by Mrs Sweeney, and that the 2025 trip will be launched in September.

The highlight of this year for me so far has to be attending the Year 14 Formal party at the Stormont Hotel and the Year 12 Formal celebration at the Crowne Plaza. They were both extremely enjoyable evenings and marked the start of new chapters in our students’ lives as they think ahead to what their future holds in the next few years. I was so proud of all the students who attended both these events, because they all made such an effort, not only with their outfits and entrances, but as mature young adults to ensure that they all enjoyed and celebrated with friends and peers their time together at Breda Academy, in such a special way!

There have been so many other highlights this year for both staff and students and in our Easter Breda Bulletin, kindly compiled by my Ms McMullan, Senior Teacher, it showcases and celebrates many of the events and activities students at school have been involved in during 2023. I hope you enjoy the articles and photographs as you will read and see that our school continues to be a vibrant and energetic community of young people to be very proud of, and we are! They’re eager to achieve, to support others and work closely with their teachers. Our Facebook page is updated daily to celebrate what our students do, keep you up to date with what has been going on and with important information you may need to know <https://en-gb.facebook.com/Breda-Academy-1394574960867218/>

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable and restful Easter break and hopefully you will get one or two chocolate eggs to enjoy next Sunday!

Kind regards,

Mr P. Perry – Acting Principal
Breda Academy

Breda Academy Careers Fair

In January, we welcomed over 35 local employers and organisations to our careers fair.

All students in Years 10 - 14 had the opportunity to attend and discover first hand the career opportunities and progression routes available to them. Thank you to all of the organisations who attended this very successful event.



Year 14 Formal

In February, our Year 14 students were able to celebrate their time at Breda Academy at their school formal, which was held at the Stormont Hotel. Thank you to Kelsey Kelly (Head Student) and Karis Anderson (Deputy Head Student) who capably organised the whole event and appreciation also goes to Mr Campbell who provided assistance to the girls.



Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 formal last week was another special evening for our students. Thank you to Mr Holmes for organising this event and whilst there were several pupils who gave ideas and contributed, there are some who deserve special credit for going above and beyond in preparing for the night. Those pupils are Chloe Mooney, Charlotte Lamont, Tommy-Lee Dono, Monalisa Tima, Joanna McAdam, Olivia Ward, Emily Plunkett, Glenn Magill and Jade Cook. Once again, thank you also to Mr Campbell for providing support throughout.



Breda Bonanza

This term we were delighted to welcome over 600 P7 students from 14 of our direct feeder primary schools.

They got to experience first hand what it's like to be a student here, by visiting different departments and participating in fun activities. To top it off, the day concluded with 'The Interschool Quiz' which put their knowledge to the test! We hope this gave them a glimpse into the dynamic and hands-on education offered at Breda Academy.

Thank you to our staff who worked so hard to make this such an engaging and worthwhile experience for the pupils. We would also like to thank the many Breda Academy students who volunteered their free time to come into school to assist with the event. We were overwhelmed with their support and were proud to see how the pupils and staff in our school community work together.



Easter Recipes

Easter Brownie Bites

Prep: 15 mins

Cook: 15 mins

Easy: Makes 24 mini brownies

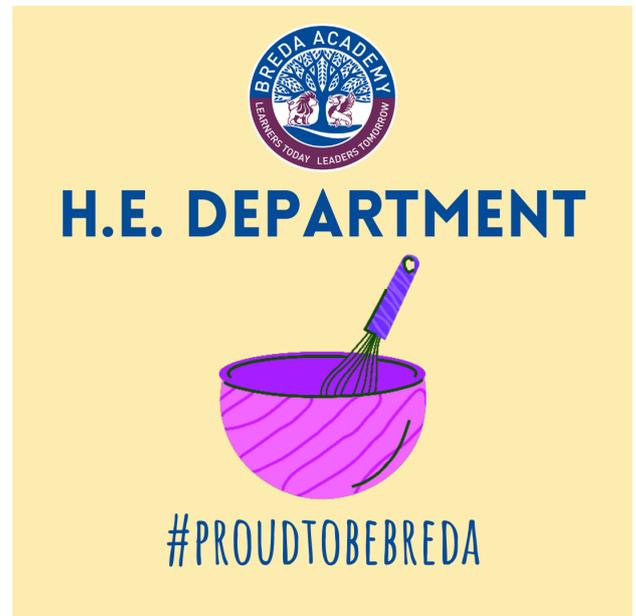
Ingredients

- 175g butter, chopped
- 150g dark chocolate
- 250g light brown soft sugar
- 85g self-raising flour
- 50g cocoa powder
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 100g milk chocolate chips
- 24 mini chocolate eggs, plus extra to decorate



Method

- Step 1 Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line 24 holes of a mini muffin tray with paper cases. Put the butter, dark chocolate and sugar in a pan and heat it very gently, stirring all the time until the butter and chocolate have melted. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few mins.
- Step 2 Meanwhile, sift the flour, cocoa and a good pinch of salt into a large bowl. Stir in the warm, melted chocolate mixture and the beaten eggs, then add half the chocolate chips and mix.
- Step 3 Divide the mixture between the cases and place a mini egg into the middle of each muffin, pushing down gently. Bake for 12-15 mins until cooked but still gooey in the centre – they will continue cooking a little as they cool down. Leave to cool for 10 mins in the tin before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.



Easter Egg Cheesecake

Ingredients

- Vegetable oil, for the tin
- 200g digestive biscuits
- 80g unsalted butter, melted
- 250g chocolate mini eggs or leftover Easter eggs
- 400g full-fat soft cheese
- 150g icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste
- 400g double cream

Method

- Step 1 Oil a 20cm deep springform cake tin and line with baking parchment. Tip the digestive biscuits into a food bag or the bowl of a food processor and crush or blitz to a fine crumb. Mix with the melted butter, then press into the base of the prepared cake tin and chill for 30 mins.
- Step 2 Roughly chop half the chocolate mini eggs. Beat the soft cheese with the icing sugar and vanilla until just combined using an electric whisk. Clean the beaters, then beat the double cream to stiff peaks in a separate bowl. Gently fold the whipped cream into the soft cheese mixture along with the chopped chocolate mini eggs. Spoon the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base, then smooth the surface with a palette knife or spatula. Chill overnight.
- Step 3 The next day, carefully release the cheesecake from the tin (you may need to run a cutlery knife around the edge to loosen it) and top with the remaining whole chocolate mini eggs to decorate.





MUSIC DEPARTMENT



#PROUDTOBEBREDA

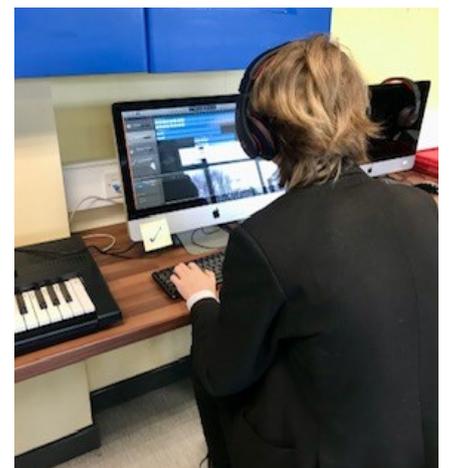
Year 8 pupils have really enjoyed learning the Ukulele as part of The Orchestra Unit this term in Music. They have become masters at reading and playing chords with great skill and musicianship being displayed.

We look forward to seeing you progress on these fun instruments, learning lots of new songs and strumming along.



Year 11 and 12 students have been busy this term as part of their Creative Arts and Digital Music course.

Students have been composing their own pieces of film music, developing their DJ Performance skills and preparing for the final performance exam on their chosen instrument.



BREDA ACADEMY

EASTER QUIZ



1. HOW MANY EASTER EGGS ARE SOLD IN THE UK EVERY YEAR?
2. THE FIRST EASTER EGGS WERE DYED WHICH COLOUR?
3. WHAT IS THE TRADITION BEHIND THE HOT CROSS BUN?
4. WHERE IS EASTER ISLAND LOCATED?
5. "HOW DO YOU EAT YOURS?" WAS THE FAMOUS ADVERTISING SLOGAN FOR WHAT?
6. WHICH CHOCOLATE COMPANY PRODUCED THE FIRST CHOCOLATE EGG IN THE UK?
7. FROM WHICH COUNTRY DID THE EASTER BUNNY ORIGINATE?
8. WHEN WAS CADBURY FOUNDED?
9. WHAT DO YOU CALL THE SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER?
10. WHAT IS THE 40 DAY PERIOD BEFORE EASTER?
11. BUYING WHAT FOR EASTER IS SAID TO BRING GOOD LUCK FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?
12. WHAT DETERMINES EASTER'S DATE?



Answers are on the final page





HISTORY DEPARTMENT



#PROUDTOBEBREDA

History

It has been a busy term in the History Department. It began with a successful open evening in January, where History students helped visitors make Motte and Bailey Castles from plasticine, work out visual timelines, decode the visual Tudor Family Tree and make empathy glasses. A big thank you to Year 11 and Year 9 History students: Sarah, Ivy, Katie, Molli-Ann, Callum, Nevaeh and Courtney for being wonderful ambassadors.

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to learn about the impact of the Holocaust on a Polish Jewish family. The inspirational story was told to us by Lesley Urbach, the daughter and niece of Holocaust survivors. The presentation from Lesley, sharing her family's experience, helped our students understand the devastating impact the Holocaust had on so many communities, families and individuals. It brought to life the personal experiences, the pictures and the recordings of her loving and happy family, which further enriched pupils' understanding. Lesley related the impact of the Holocaust in a modern day context.

The Year 11 Historians enjoyed a trip to the Ulster Museum to take part in a workshop on the N. Ireland Troubles and visit the exhibition. They took part in activities throughout the workshop: examining sources and artefacts from this time, as well as looking at how the Troubles impacted families and communities. The Year 11 students should be commended for their behaviour and engagement as they were real ambassadors for the school and had an enjoyable day.

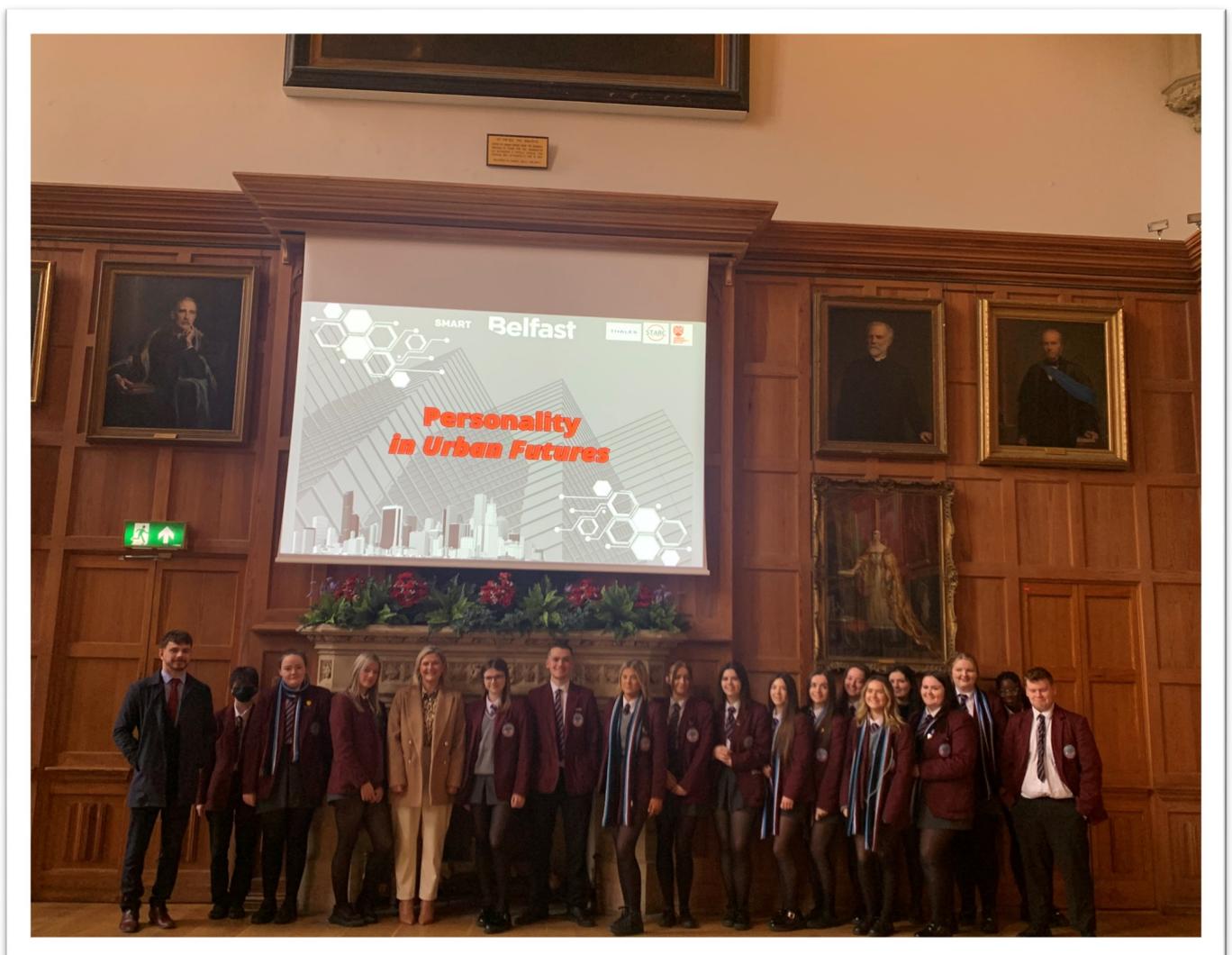
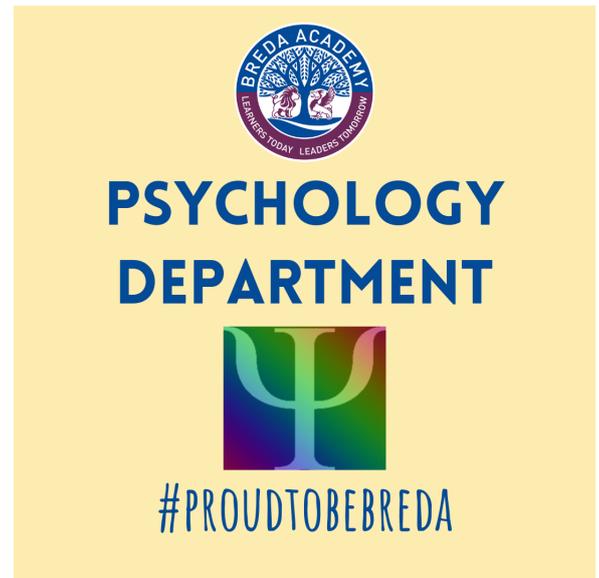
Year 10 students have been busy this term completing their homework project on the Battle of the Somme. Thank you to all of our pupils, as well as their parents and carers. The standard of work has been high and it has been great to see how they have developed their historical research and analysis skills with this task.

'Smart Belfast' at QUB

The Year 13 and 14 Psychology students attended the 'Personality in Urban Futures' event at Queen's University as part of the NI Science Festival Schools and Educators Programme. This event brought together personality and careers within an urban futures society, in reference to the £35 million project to make Belfast a smart city (<https://smartbelfast.city/>).

Our students participated in a workshop where they learnt about 'Smart Belfast', their own personality (by taking and scoring their own personality survey), and which urban futures careers are most suited to their personality type. Researchers and community leaders also discussed personality and life outcomes, human technology interaction and what 'Smart Belfast' means for the young people in the area.

The psychology students really enjoyed assessing their own personality and we would like to thank QUB for inviting us to this event, as well as providing our transport.





PUBLIC SERVICES & LLW DEPARTMENT



#PROUDTOBEBREDA

Our Year 14 Public Services and Year 11 Learning for Life and Work pupils had a great day working with the armed forces in January. They participated in a range of activities which developed their ability to work as part of a team, as well as developing their own leadership skills; truly showing how they are learners today and the leaders of tomorrow.

They were also able to learn more about working in the armed forces and the different opportunities that working in the public services can bring. Our pupils had a great day, with some now showing interest in doing work experience with the army also. Well done Year 11 and Year 14!



Year 14 Hospitality students have been baking Easter treats and we couldn't resist showing off their excellent skills!



HOSPITALITY DEPARTMENT



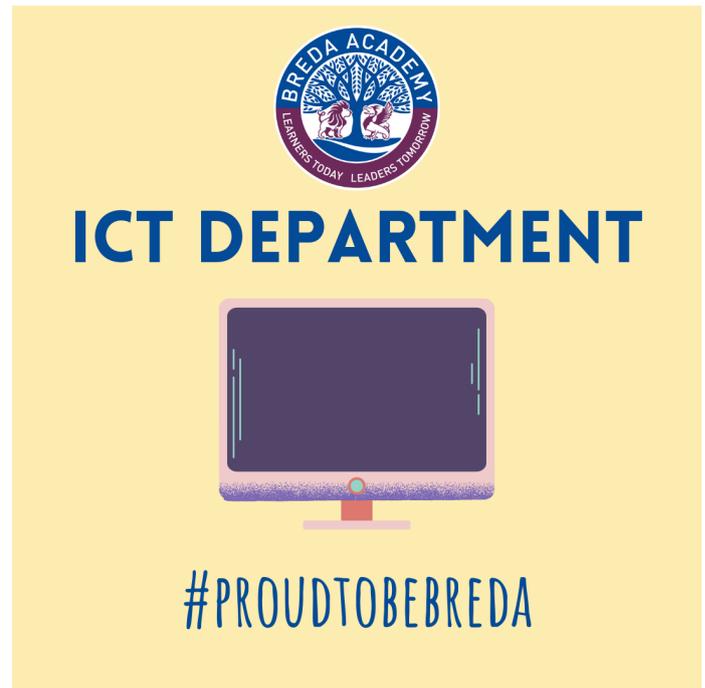
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Lego League

Year 11 students got to take part in this year's international Lego league competition in Belfast city centre.

The students had to design a robot to complete several missions to collect points. Students also designed an innovation project which they had to present to a panel of judges.

Caleb from Year 11 - *"It was an enjoyable and a fun experience to learn about building Lego and computing skills"*



Art Department

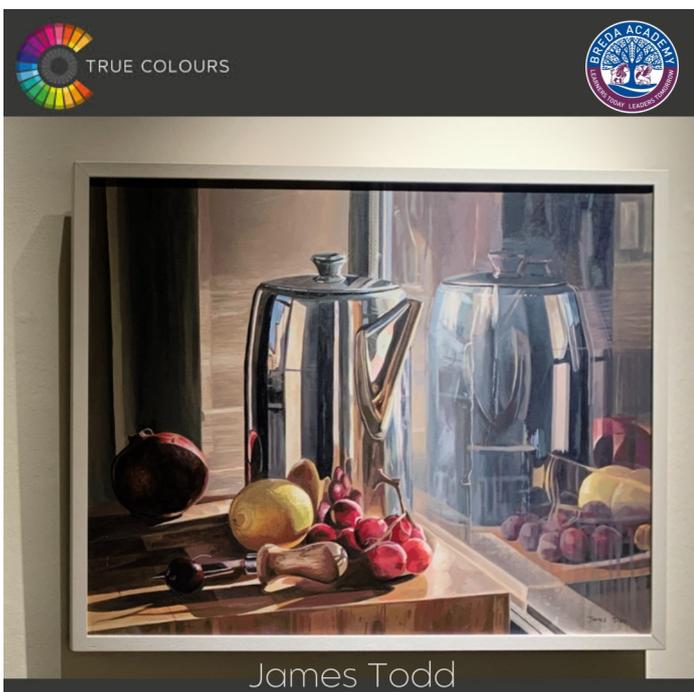
True Colours Art Exhibition at the Ulster Museum

The work of past pupil, James Todd, was displayed in CCEA's 'True Colours' Art & Design exhibition at the Ulster Museum. James left Breda Academy in June 2022 and is now studying for a degree in Art at Ulster University.

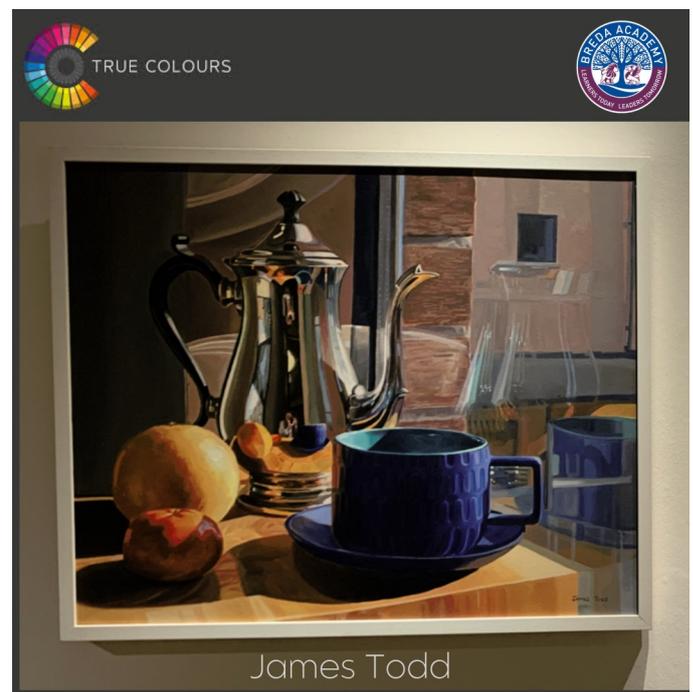


James is an incredibly talented artist and was selected from all of the A-Level students in Northern Ireland to show two pieces of his work in this exhibition, which was first launched in the 1950s.

We are very proud of James and wish him well with his future studies and career in Art.



James Todd



James Todd

Breda Breakfast

This term saw the introduction of the Breda Breakfast each morning in the Assembly Hall. We received funding from the James Kane Foundation which has enabled us to provide a FREE breakfast club every morning from 8.00 am to 8.30 am (for the foreseeable future).

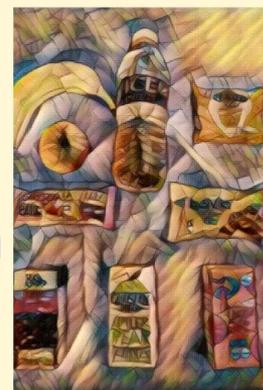
All pupils in years 8 to 14 are welcome to come and enjoy a healthy breakfast, from a range of food and drinks (including fresh fruit, juice, cereal bars, etc.)

Our students have welcomed this new service and we would like to thank the James Kane Foundation for making this possible!

breakfast

[start your day the right way]

All pupils at Breda Academy can avail of a FREE breakfast each morning!



"Study after study shows that kids who eat breakfast function better. They do better in school, and have better concentration and more energy. Children who eat breakfast are generally in better health overall." (www.healthychildren.org)

IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ...

"Parents should work in partnership with the school, notifying the school of the reason for any of their child's absences and highlighting any areas of concern they may have so they can be addressed promptly." (DENI)

PLEASE
LET
US
KNOW
THE REASON



THANK YOU!

Market Research at the Ulster Museum

Year 13 Travel and Tourism students visited the Ulster Museum in March to carry out market research for their coursework. Students were able to explore the museum in the morning, before having a bite of lunch at 1pm. Once lunch was over, every student was given three questionnaires to ask members of the general public. All of the students enjoyed this experience as it gave them the opportunity to speak first-hand to members of the public about their experience of the Ulster Museum. A wide range of people were questioned, and the results were exactly what was needed for a successful start to Section 2 of their coursework.

On our return to school, questionnaire results were gathered using a tally chart. After this, results were inserted into Microsoft Excel and charts were drawn up so analysis of each question could begin. Students are currently working on the analysis section of their coursework and these results are proving invaluable.





MATHS DEPARTMENT



#PROUDTOBEBREDA

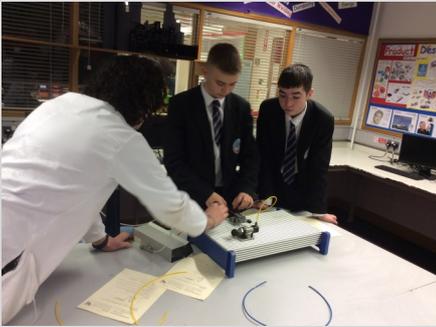


Student Recognition

The Maths Department continues to reward and recognise those students who are working particularly well in this subject, by showcasing their student led lessons and 'Maths Pupils of the Month'.

Our Technology and Design students get to take part in a wide range of practical activities: including CAD, Carpentry and Joinery and pneumatics and you can see them at work in the photos below. Also, we have had a number of student teachers in school this term, including Mr McCracken (Stranmillis - Technology & Design), whom we asked to share his thoughts about Breda Academy.

"My name is Gregory McCracken, and I am a second year Stranmillis technology and design student. Having been placed in Breda academy for my placement has been a true experience. I have really enjoyed



teaching the pupils who attend here and getting to know them as my placement has progressed. The staff have been so welcoming; the support they have given me has

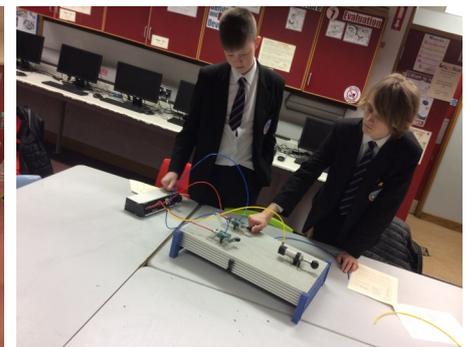
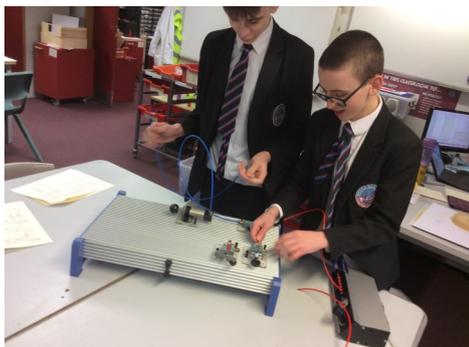
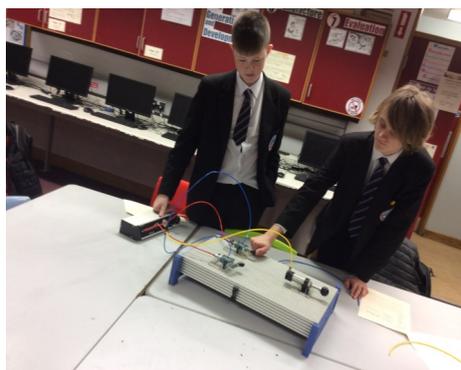
allowed me to really progress as a teacher and has made me enjoy my time here at Breda all the more. As a whole, I really did have a wonderful time being part of Breda life for my 7 weeks. "

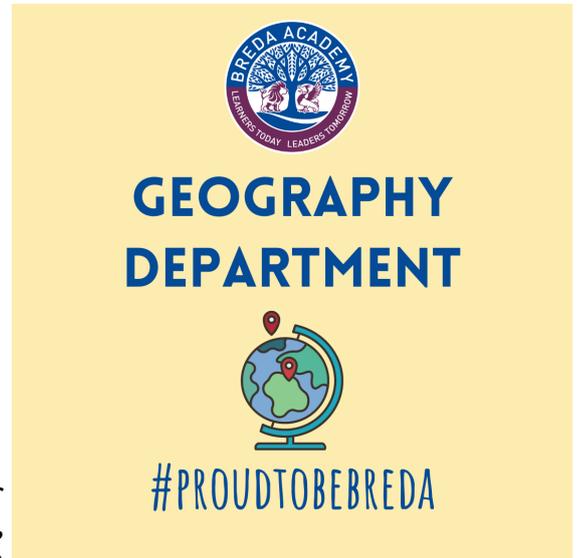


TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN



#PROUDTOBEBREDA





Term Two in the Geography Department has seen our students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills about the world around us through a

range of interesting topics! Our *Year 8 pupils* have been learning about various types of maps and how to use them in school and the wider world. Our *Year 9 classes* have been learning about world development and coming up with solutions to inequalities. *Year 10 pupils* have been learning about our Earth, including how it is structured and how it changes over time. *Year 11* continue with their GCSE course, have been learning about World Development and are looking forward to their River Study Field Trip after Easter.



Lastly, our *Year 12 students* have completed their course and are working hard preparing for their summer GCSEs.

Alongside the classroom learning, we have enjoyed engaging with our wider school events. Open Evening was a huge success as the Geography Department welcomed many future students who were kept busy with a range of activities facilitated by some fantastic *Year 8 volunteers*! The Breda Bonanza was another successful event that gave our local *P7 pupils* the opportunity to experience how diverse and fascinating Geography is at Breda Academy. We have enjoyed engaging with parents and guardians at the various Parents'/Guardians' afternoons, as we continue to build strong relationships that support the learning and development of our students. Finally, NI Water came into school to teach our *Year 8* about the importance of saving water and keeping to the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Each student received a free reusable water bottle, and it has been encouraging to see our students reduce their plastic waste by using these in school!

We are greatly looking forward to our summer term and all the things we will learn over the coming months!

Earth Day is coming up on Saturday 22nd April so click on the link that will take you to some climate friendly recipes for you to try!

<https://www.earthday.org/eatmoreplants/>



Important Dates in the Summer Term

School closed - Bank Holidays - 1st May & 29th May and King's Coronation - 8th May.

Summer internal exams Years 8-11 - 30th May - 2nd June (inclusive).

May and June GCSE/A Level/Level 2 & Level 3 external exams. Please see individual timetables for more details.

Year 11 Work Experience Week - 19th June - 23rd June (inclusive).

Sports Day - 23rd June

Last Day of Term - 30th June



Happy **EASTER**

Pupils return to school on
Monday, 17th April 2023

Easter Quiz Answers

1. 80 million
2. Red
3. It represents the cross on which Jesus Christ died
4. The Southeast Pacific
5. Cadbury's Creme Egg
6. Frys and Sons
7. Germany
8. 1824
9. Palm Sunday
10. Lent
11. New clothes
12. The moon