

News, Events and Updates at Brompton Academy

A Very Successful Christmas Activity Event at Brompton Academy

Brompton Academy had a fantastic start to the festive season at our annual Christmas Activity Event held on Saturday 30th November.

Seventy-five parents, carers, students and members of the wider community joined us in celebrating Christmas by taking part in three Christmas themed workshops (baking, card and craft making).

The Associates of Brompton Academy supported the event by providing delicious refreshments, such as hot chocolate and marshmallows, pizza and sweet treats. They also provided a Christmas hamper packed with lots of items to share with friends and family.

Congratulations to the Baker family who won the hamper!

The Associates of Brompton Academy raise funds to enrich the education and learning experiences of Academy students through fun and profitable activities. To find out more information about the Associates, please follow the link below:

<https://www.bromptonacademy.org.uk/associates-of-brompton-academy>



The Associates raised a total of £264.

Strictly Come Reading 2019

Students from Years 7,8 and 9 competed in the glamorous glittering public speaking competition that is Strictly Come Reading, with judges who were insightful, supportive and sometimes fab-u-lous with their feedback. Everyone had such brilliant fun!



A Brilliant CCF Field Trip



After a miserable week of weather, the cadets bought a ray of sunshine to Lodge Hill training area. Their enthusiasm to get into the woods and get their basher's up before the last light was good to see. They used their skills to make a home for the night using a waterproof sheet, string and a bungee. After creating a temporary home, playing meal swaps and treating themselves to the culinary delights of a ration pack, some lucky enough to have an 'all day breakfast' (probably the most sought after meal), the cadets prepared themselves for a night patrol.

Orders were received and under the guidance of staff, two patrols went in search of the enemy. The aim of the patrol was to gather as much information on the enemy as possible. Our enemy that night was the remainder of our staff and the dark! After successfully returning back to the woods, we all gathered around the camp fire for a debrief and toasted marshmallows



The next eight hours can only be described as mish mash of the Blair Witch Project and an episode of Scooby Doo! Cadets did their best to create more illuminations than Gatwick's runway. After a few hours' sleep, one by one, they crawled out of their sleeping bags and started making fire and cooking their breakfast, ready for the bushcraft building phase of the exercise.



After receiving an extensive health and safety brief, the cadets built a shelter from the resources they had around them, wood, wood and more wood.

Five hours later the sections had built their own lean to, secure and cosy enough to live in.

The cadets had a great time, thankfully the weather did stay kind to us, we just wished the wildlife could have slept as well!

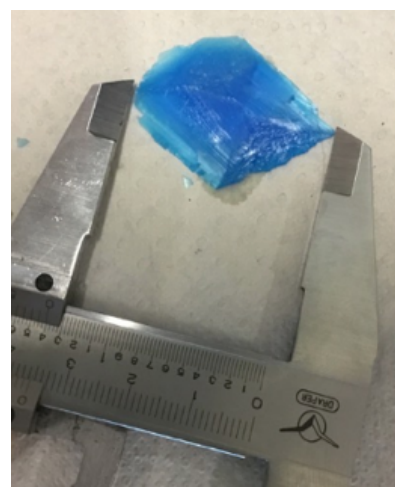
Brompton Academy Science Department Goes Crystalline

Phase Two Challenge: Crystals



This term Years 9 and 10 took part in the first Phase Two Challenge. This challenge was all about making copper sulphate (CuSO_4) crystals.

The first part of the Phase Two Challenge was inspired by artist Roger Hiorns who filled an entire bedsit apartment with CuSO_4 solution and allowed the crystals to grow on the walls, ceiling, floor and furniture.



The installation is now in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

All Year 9 and 10 classes designed and constructed their own mini-bedsit models and allowed the CuSO_4 crystals to grow in them.

The second part of the challenge was to extract a CuSO_4 solution from an insoluble copper oxide (CuO) powder. This is one of the required practicals for GCSE. The challenge was to use their knowledge of how crystals form in order to grow the biggest CuSO_4 crystal.

Marks are awarded for each class for best mini-bedsit, largest crystal and best photograph. The marks are added to a PTC League Table, which will continue over the year.

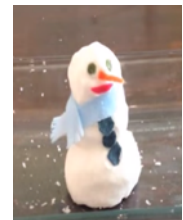
The winning class at the end of the academic year will receive an award, yet to be announced. Last year's winners (10y1) went on a trip to Thorpe Park in July.

X Lab for Phase One 'Christmas Sparkle'



The first X Lab of the academic year took place in December. Years 7 and 8 took part in four Science activities:

1. Students grew multi-coloured crystals on cardboard Christmas trees, demonstrating capillary action and chromatography
2. Students grew borax crystals on pipe cleaner tree decorations
3. Students suspended tinsel in the air using plastic rods or balloons, demonstrating electrostatic forces
4. Students made artificial snow people using baking powder



Join the STEM Club



The STEM Club meets every Monday after school in room R108.

It is open to Years 7 to 10. Currently the club are preparing for the LEGO League Competition that takes place at the end of this term.



LEGO League is a global STEM challenge for teams of young people, to encourage an interest in real world themes and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers.

Young people work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and program an autonomous LEGO robot to solve a series of missions.

A Super Busy Term in the Brompton Academy Library

Picture Medway

Students from Brompton Academy are participating in an exciting project with the University of Kent School of Engineering and Digital Arts with Medway Libraries and funding from the Arts Council.

Our first session involved familiarisation with some amazing SLR cameras, and experimenting with aperture, shutter speed and ISO variations. We moved on to researching at the Medway Archives, photographing the Chatham Naval Memorial, drone photography, portraits and architecture.

Look out for their inspiring pictures being exhibited at Medway Libraries.



Guess Who's Coming to Christmas Dinner?

Students identified the literary characters coming to dinner using festive place settings! The lucky winners received a great festive goody bag!



Creating a Book Buzz!

Our Year 7 students were invited to participate in our first ever Book Buzz.

Each student was shown a selection of fabulous books from different genres and invited to choose one to keep.

We kicked off in a festive mood as our students become Story Sharers. If there is one thing better than reading a great story, it's sharing a great story. All our students can share their book with a sibling, parent, friend or grandparent which qualifies them for our super prize draw.

Heroes or Villains?

Several Year 7 students enjoyed a creative writing workshop with PhD students from the University of Kent.

They discussed what makes a hero, and where villains come from, before creating their own characters.

It was fabulous to bounce ideas around and consider heroes from different media and genres.



Remembering the Fallen

We were very proud of our library display for Armistice Day with a dramatic display made from recycled materials with the help of Chantelle as part of her volunteering hours for her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Table Tennis Triumph

Term 2 saw the launch of a newly formed table tennis team at Brompton Academy.

The table tennis team demonstrated amazing resilience and dedication, training extremely hard for the Kent Schools Team event. With a squad made up of both boys and girls from Year 7 and 8, all students were excellent role models. This is the first time that Brompton Academy have ever entered this event. Both teams secured great results with the girls gaining 2nd place in the competition, and the boys producing wins against more experienced players.

Students are now training hard for the upcoming Kent Schools Individuals Tournament, where we are hoping for some great results.



The Brompton PE Department are also excited to announce a brand-new project launching in 2020 – The Brompton Table Tennis Academy. This academy will be aimed at students who are looking to improve their ability in table tennis. They will receive coaching from qualified coaches and have the opportunity to play on brand new specialist equipment.

Keep an eye out for the new outdoor table tennis coming soon!

Great Commitment from the Girls' Football Team

We are pleased to see some excellent participation from all year groups this term. The girls have trained hard and demonstrated commitment in all weather conditions to prepare for upcoming fixtures.

The Year 7 and 8 squad had a terrific 8-1 victory against Rainham Mark Grammar School in a recent friendly, where students demonstrated incredible skill and determination. This win can be credited to all the students' dedication and attitude. Every student in the squad should be very proud of their performance. Students are already looking forward to future games, particularly in the English Schools Cup.

A Busy Term in Performing Arts

BA Theatre Company

This term, students from Phase One and Two have been developing their acting skills with the BA Theatre Company. Students have taken part in a range of exciting workshops and are currently rehearsing their performance of 'The Grinch' ready for the Winter Showcase. For some students, this will be their first time performing at Brompton Academy. The Performing Arts department are very proud of the dedication and enthusiasm that students have shown and are very excited to see the final performance come together!

Annie Trip

The Performing Arts department took a large group of GCSE Dance and BTEC Performing Arts students to see 'Annie' at The Marlowe Theatre. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to see a professional performance and experience the magic of musical theatre live. The students were inspired by the standard that they saw, and really enjoyed popular numbers such as '*it's a hard knock life*' and '*tomorrow*'. The PA department would like to recognise the professionalism shown by the students who attended the trip; they were a credit to the department and the Academy.

UKAT Sixth Form Students Visit The Royal Opera House

Year 12 and 13 Performing Arts and Dance students attended a matinee performance of 'The Lost Thing' by The Royal Opera and Candoco Dance Company. The event was a chance to see the premiere of the piece presented at The Royal Opera House in London, and students were fortunate to watch the performance from some of the best seats in the house.

'What is it... and where does it belong?' The discovery of something mysterious and out of place is the starting point for this family show. The production is a musical reimagining of Shaun Tan's beautifully illustrated book about a boy who helps a lost thing find its way home. In this enchanting collaboration between Candoco Dance Company and The Royal Opera, a cast of disabled and non-disabled singers, dancers and musicians, come together to tell a story about how we are all connected.

This experience will help students with their upcoming choreography and devising assessments in addition to furthering their knowledge of arts practitioners and companies.

UKAT Sixth Form Students Visit the Turner Prize Exhibition at Turner Contemporary, Margate

Supported by the team at Turner Contemporary, UKAT Sixth Form students visited the gallery to see the work of three artists whose work had been shortlisted for the Turner Prize.

This was an incredible opportunity for the students to see a range of artworks in the incredible setting of the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate.

The works explored themes such as identity, equality and human rights and featured a range of media such as sculptures and audio installations. Other pieces also featured in the gallery such as a stunning series of large charcoal works which had been drawn directly on to the walls by the artist Barbara Walker.

Outside the gallery is an Anthony Gormley sculpture which is located in the sea; the silhouette of someone looking out into the water was very striking and characteristic of his work.

The trip was a chance for Art, Photography and Performing Arts students to see the work of a range of famous artists and to expand their cultural knowledge and understanding.

We hope to see the influence of this experience in the work they produce in the future.



Chatham Historic Dockyard Arts Award Project

In October half term a group of Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts students participated in a collaborative project between Brompton Academy, Chatham Historic Dockyard and Brolly Productions.

Over the course of two days students took part in a range of art activities, met and interviewed the lead creative team of Brolly Productions, watched an opera and made two backdrops for the show!

To say they were busy would be an understatement, but they worked with energy, focus and determination.



It was a real moment of pride to see the backdrops hanging up in the performance space and for the other members of the audience to see the work on display. This project has enabled students to produce work for an Arts Award qualification and we hope to receive their certificates in the new year.



School of Rock Trip for UKAT students

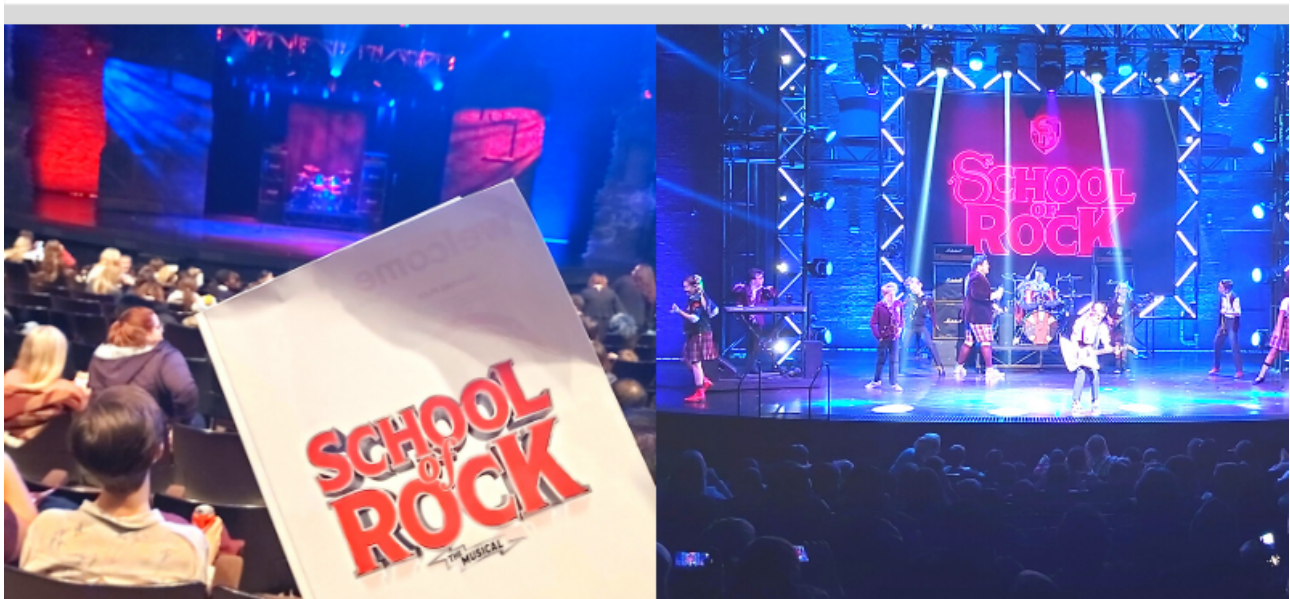
UKAT Music students in Years 9 –13 took a trip to the Gillian Lynne Theatre, Drury Lane to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's critically acclaimed musical School of Rock.

This new musical is based on the renowned 2003 film of the same name starring Jack Black. It is about an aspiring musician who poses as a supply teacher and forms a rock band with the prep school's young students. The musical showcases the talented cast's skills as they delighted the audience with their energetic performance.

There was an announcement before the show to inform the audience that the younger cast members (whose ages ranged from 8-11 years old), were all playing their instruments and singing the show's songs, which contained fourteen new songs composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Feedback comments after the show, demonstrated how much students enjoyed the performance and appreciated the experience.

SCHOOL OF ROCK



Instrumental Lessons Available

The University of Kent Academies Trust Music Department are always working to celebrate and nurture musical talents.

As such, we are currently offering lessons in guitar, drums, bass, voice, trumpet, clarinet, violin and other instruments.

All tuition is conducted on a one-to-one or small groups basis, with a rolling timetable. There are a limited number of places, and instruments available, and therefore it is offered on a first come first served basis.

Please contact chloecoupe@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk for more information regarding tutor availability, prices, timetable etc.

Ukulele Choir

The ukulele choir was a free six-week programme, funded by Universal Music and delivered by EduBox.

Students learnt the fundamentals of singing and ukulele playing such as how to warmup, tune, develop chord patterns, and use correct techniques.

Students had the opportunity to perform an array of songs such as I'm Yours by Jason Mraz, Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars, and Let it Be by The Beatles.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and thanked Matt from Edubox for his expertise.



Inside Sports Science Project

A number of Year 10 BTEC students were invited to participate in a Sports Science project set up by the University of Kent.

Students visited the University and participated in Sports Science workshops based on Sport Psychology, sports drinks, strength and conditioning and agility. Brompton Academy students planned a research topic, collected and recorded their data and created a poster detailing their findings. This term students will be also be invited to attend a Sports Science conference where they will present their posters to University of Kent lecturers, PhD students and special guests.

Exciting Outward Bounds Trip to Wales

This term, the PE department took twenty-four BTEC Sport students to the Outward Bound Centre in Aberdovey, Wales, for a residential trip.

The trip was aimed towards pushing students out of their comfort zones, realising the skills they possess and providing experiences and memories that students will remember for a lifetime.

Students had the opportunity to try out gorge walking, go on mountain expeditions, attempt high rope challenges and have a go at rock climbing. Brompton Academy students were fantastic ambassadors for young adults, showing real determination, resilience and team work to overcome a wide variety of barriers.

A huge thank you to Henry Schein, who very generously funded the trip and provided two ambassadors to work alongside our students and make the experience very memorable.

Year 11 Health and Social Care

Year 11 BTEC Health and Social Care students are required to study 'Measurements of Health' as part of their Component 3 External Examination to be held in February 2020.

After liaising with the PE Department, Mr Webster kindly volunteered to support students with this activity by demonstrating the equipment in the gym related to the task.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the session, and were able to apply this knowledge in their recent mock examination. Many thanks to Mr Webster for his support.

Kent BTEC Health and Social Care Teachers' Forum Meeting

Brompton Academy hosted a very popular conference for teachers from many different schools who teach Level 2 and Level 3 Health and Social Care.

This was great opportunity for teachers of Health and Social Care to support each other with ideas and resources to enhance teaching methods and student grades in the future.

A Snapshot of Spanish at Brompton Academy

We have certainly been busy in Spanish this term.

Year 7 and 8 students are always excited to learn new songs, new vocabulary words, greetings and actively participate in all the planned activities to make Spanish accessible. As always, we are aiming for students to learn in a fun learning environment, so they feel confident speaking and learning Spanish.

We usually start our lessons with a kinaesthetic activity such as walk around the classroom where they greet each other, ask questions about the weather, the date, how they are feeling and every day conversations. We try to make the lessons dynamic with lots of movement in the classroom to keep students active and engaged in the lessons.



Students have started to learn basic grammar, such as verb and noun agreement, as well as conjugating verbs with ar, er, and ir endings. We are very impressed by how well the students can ask questions with the correct grammar forms in Spanish.

They have also learnt to give opinions about things they like and dislike doing, as well as talking about the weather and what they like doing when it's raining! They are presently learning 'un Villancico' (a Christmas Carol) in Spanish.

Disneyland Paris

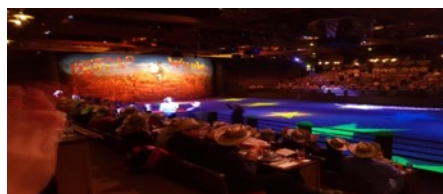


Recently we had the pleasure of taking thirty Year 9 students on a residential trip to Disneyland Paris. Everybody had a really good time and the students represented Brompton Academy immaculately throughout our four fun-filled, action-packed days.

After an early start on Sunday morning, our coach took us to the port of Dover to board the ferry crossing to Calais. Arriving at the Hotel Cheyenne, Disneyland, we had plenty of time to checked into our rooms and head down for an evening meal in the Christmas-themed Disney Village.



Monday was a very busy day. After an 'all-you-can-eat' breakfast buffet, we spent the morning in Disneyland Park, and the afternoon in Walt Disney Studios. Students had a great time on all the rides. That evening we had our first Business session; gaining a great insight into how Disney makes the magic come to life. Students learnt key elements of marketing and strategy which will benefit them greatly back in the classroom.



From there we went straight to our evening entertainment at the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. A couple of our students who were celebrating birthdays were invited to join members of the entertainment team in helping to get the crowd energised and excited. Obviously, they all did a fantastic job; the show was a massive success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Tuesday morning's Business workshop was an opportunity for students to put the previous day's learning into action. Working in teams, students were tasked with designing a new ride and promotional campaign for Disneyland which they then presented to their peers. It was fantastic to see so many creative, innovative ideas coming from them all. There are definitely a few future entrepreneurs in our midst!



We had the rest of the day in the parks to get in some more rides before grabbing an hour's rest back in our hotel rooms.

That evening we headed back to Disneyland Park for a fantastic fireworks and lights extravaganza with the Disney Castle as the backdrop.

It was then time for a well-earned dinner, so lots of students took the opportunity to try out some of the experience-based restaurants available – the Rainforest Café was a definite favourite!



After some last-minute shopping, we returned back to our hotel to pack, and get a good night's sleep before departure next morning.

We sadly said goodbye to the Hotel Cheyenne and headed back to sunny old England where all the parents/carers were waiting patiently to pick up students (and their presents).

'It was a truly memorable trip and a real pleasure being on the trip with an absolutely brilliant bunch of students'. **Mr Grimes**

Villarreal Penalty Shootout Fundraiser

Forty-four students who will be attending our Villarreal Football trip in April 2020 took part in a penalty shootout competition to raise money for their exciting trip.

Most of these students took part in a penalty shootout during the first week back of Term 2. We had some amazing shots and saves throughout the competition but eventually there were three stand out penalty takers that made the final. These were Matthew, Isobel and Tom. These three students went head to head in a sudden death penalty shootout where Matthew was crowned our champion!

Matthew will receive his trophy next term. Well done to everyone who took part.

Brompton Academy Students Spend an Active Day at Roko Gym



The PE department organised thirty girls who represented the school at the Secondary School Games last year and finished 3rd in Medway, to attend Roko Health Club Gym for the day.

Students took part in a spin class and a core class ran by a qualified Personal Trainer. They also had free use of the gym and attended a swimming session. Roko kindly gave each student two free passes to encourage them to visit again.

News from the English Department

This term, we signed up to Book Buzz - a charity that aims to promote reading in schools.

They provided Brompton Academy with a range of texts. From non-fiction National Geographic book, a poetry book to a number of fiction books of differing genres. Students were given an opportunity to choose any one of these texts to keep forever. In lessons they were given an opportunity to have a look and read of some of the books that were on offer. Students watched a short video where authors gave a brief synopsis of their books. Students also discussed why they enjoyed the text.

Once they had this experience, students made an informed decision as to what book they wanted and we sent their requests off to the charity who kindly sent us the books in early December. Not only did we want the students to have a book that was exclusively their own, but we wanted to generate some 'buzz' around these books. Staff came up with the idea that once the student had read their book, they pass it onto another student and so on and so forth. The student that shares the book the most times will be entered into a competition to win an Amazon Alexa at the end of next term!

A Level English Literature Workshop for Year 11 Students

Aware that it has been a year since our students studied or discussed English Literature in lessons, English teachers wanted to keep the flame burning bright, so this term we reached out to some of our Year 11 students and invited them to come along to 'pizza and prose'. We discussed some of the themes, ideas, motifs, contextual factors present in the opening chapter of *Beloved* - one of the prose texts we study for A-Level. Some great ideas were generated and we all left feeling both full of knowledge and full of pizza. We will meet again next term and discuss our findings from *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gillman and we are looking forward to it already!

Year 12 A-Level Workshops

This term we offered a workshop to facilitate the transition between studying English Literature at GCSE and English Literature at A Level.

We worked closely with Dr. Alex Martin-Carey at the University of Kent and UoK ambassadors, and devised a series of workshops for Year 12 students that would help bridge this gap and develop their confidence in dealing not only with the assessment objectives for the course, but to also raise students' confidence with some of the texts that we are currently studying like *Beloved* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

These workshops took place in Brompton Academy on Wednesday afternoons as part of academic mentoring. At our final session we asked for feedback from the students which was really positive. We hope to run more sessions like these in the year to come.

Why Not Join Brompton Academy Netball Team?

Brompton Academy netball teams have grown over the past term with lots of new members joining the team. We had lots of fixtures against various schools across Medway, including Rainham Mark, Thomas Aveling and have scheduled upcoming games against Robert Napier, Strood Academy and Walderslade Girls.

We are always looking for new team members so come along on Wednesdays after school 3:00pm until 4:15pm.



Cheerleaders Training Hard for Competitions



The team has been selected and the Brompton Academy All Stars are well underway with their training. Students have been working on their tumbling, perfecting their dance as well as growing closer as a team. With the introduction of a new coach in Term 3 we are looking to perform new skills and keep our winning streak going in the next competition!

Brompton Academy Students Support the Local Food Bank

One of our Year 7 Personal Tutoring groups, 7pt9, have been working hard to arrange a collection for their local food bank.

They each had a role within the organisation; from researching the desired food needed for the Christmas food boxes that the food bank are collecting for, to designing the advertising material, to being the advertisers and visiting form rooms and talking in assembly to promote the collection date.



Record Number of Registrations for our DofE Programme

Recruitment of students for the DofE programme at both Bronze and Silver level has been very successful this year. We are extremely happy that one hundred and twenty students have registered for the Bronze award this year across UKAT. Final numbers for Silver are yet to be confirmed

UKAT DofE are very excited with the record numbers of students, and having staff trained, we now can run our own expeditions. This gives us full control and flexibility over students' expeditions whilst also being able to provide top quality kit to ensure their DofE experience is the best it can be.

As always there has been a lot going on these past two terms. Initial meetings took place a couple of weeks ago to sort out teams and get students signed up on eDofE.

Training will start in earnest in January. For the full list of confirmed dates please see our website.

We are also really pleased to announce the appointment of two Sixth Form WOW (World of Work) students, and welcome Kayleigh and Isobel to the team. Both will be available to answer any questions students may have about the programme. Dates of their availability will be posted on the Edmodo group.

Training for staff continues with Ms Goosey and Ms Asprey starting their assessor training in January, we wish them the best of luck. We also have a staff training weekend at the beginning of March.

For more information regarding the DofE programme please visit our website <https://www.bromptonacademy.org.uk/duke-of-edinburgh-award> or contact the DofE team via email at dofeba@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk.

Adult and Family Learning News

Bespoke courses for Academy Parents and Carers

iPad Training for Parents and Carers

Year 7 parents and carers were invited to attend a free informative two-hour training session that covered the basics of how the iPad works. The session was designed to share the apps we use at BA, and to show how parents/carers can best support their children using this fantastic interactive device.

After attending the training session 100% of parents and carers felt that they now have practical new tips to enable them to help their children with their home learning using an iPad.

Online Safety Session for Parents and Carers

This free one hour training session was developed to provide parents and carers with useful tips and ideas on how to help keep their children safe whilst online.

100% of parents and carers felt that the session was useful and would recommend it to others.

If you would like to attend our next online safety course, please email marymurison@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk to register your interest.

Understanding and Supporting Your Child Session for Parents and Carers

We know that parenting can be both rewarding and challenging; with this in mind we invited the Behaviour Detective into the Academy to deliver a free two hour session, Understanding and Supporting Your Child, to parents and carers. This session allowed parents, carers and other family members the opportunity to discuss and reflect with

others about what is working and what they need to change. The session covered a variety of topics, including:

- Understanding different behaviours in young people and why they occur
- Understanding the links between feelings, needs and behaviour
- Modelling positive behaviour and communications as a parent/carer
- Tips and tools to help parents and carers deal with challenging behaviour, and how to get cooperation from your children

100% of parents and carers found the session useful and felt that it met their expectations.



The Behaviour
Detective