

# News, Events and Updates at Brompton Academy

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## Year 7 UKAT Students Visit the University of Kent for a Da Vinci Theme Day

Once again, this year our Year 7 students and students from Chatham Grammar School for Girls spent an exciting few days at the University of Kent as part of a Science and Arts specialism focussed week.

The days were centred on a Da Vinci bridge building competition, in which all groups were tasked with being creative in their use of engineering and proven techniques to build a strong and supportive structure. In the morning students spent time in a Science workshop with University of Kent Maths, Architecture and Science lecturers.



Following this, students worked outside and around the campus with University Ambassadors looking at ideas for their designs. Students spent the afternoon working in teams developing their plans for their bridge.

The winning team from each day has won a trip to the Science Museum in London in the summer term.

Students from both schools had an amazing day and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.



## A' Level Dance Students visit Sadler's Wells Theatre

This term UKAT Sixth Form A' Level Dance students travelled to London with staff from the Performing Arts Faculty to see the latest triple bill by the Rambert Dance Company.

The performance took place at Sadler's Wells Theatre in Islington which is one of the most famous venues for dance in the world, and one used by Rambert to present its work to thousands of people each year.



Each of the three pieces was created by a different choreographer and featured a range of exciting props, costumes and pieces of music.

The first piece by Wayne McGregor and 'PreSentient' featured the whole company performing his signature style of athletic and abstract contemporary ballet to classical music by Steve Reich.

The second piece 'Rouge', was a premiere of a new work for Rambert by Marion Motin who has recently choreographed for Dua Lipa and Christine and the Queens. Her hip-hop background translated into an energetic and driving piece complimented by incredible LED light strips and lots of haze.



The final piece was the most significant for the students as it was a rare opportunity to see a piece by Hofesh Shechter, whose work they have been studying this term.

The piece titled 'In your rooms' is a dynamic and intense snapshot of a group of people who are experiencing oppression and who seek freedom.

The live accompaniment and use of spoken word enhanced the incredible use of lighting and the costumes.



During the event students commented on how much they had enjoyed the pieces. In lessons this will be followed up by a closer analysis of the pieces seen and the way they link to other elements of their course.

We also hope that students took inspiration from the trip, and that the experience may enhance the pieces of choreography they create themselves in future performances.

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## Football and Fundraising at Brompton Academy

On Sunday 12th May we hosted the Anchorians Girls and Ladies Football tournament, and were gifted with great weather. Approximately one thousand players and their families enjoyed a day of competitions, trophies and great football playing.

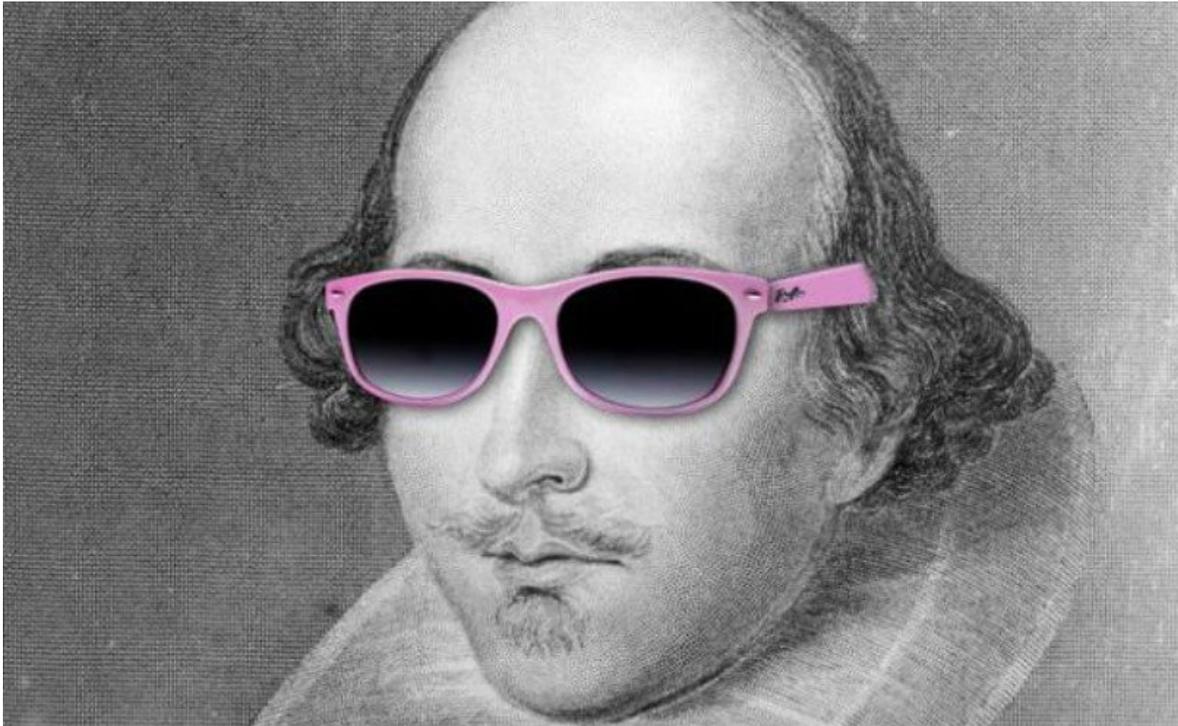
The Associates organised a super BBQ and provided refreshments from 8.00am until 6.00pm! The BA Associates raised an amazing £586.56 which will be spent on student trips; such as Jamie's Farm, plus uniform grants and departmental requests etc.

A fantastic day and great work BA Associates!!

## Something for Everyone in the Library this Term – Come Along and Get Involved!

### **Shakespeare in the House!**

Students from Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a belated celebration for Shakespeare's birthday, in a joint workshop with our Lead Sponsor the University of Kent. We focussed on language, humour and settings, with a little role-play. When it comes to Shakespeare, it's all about the banter!



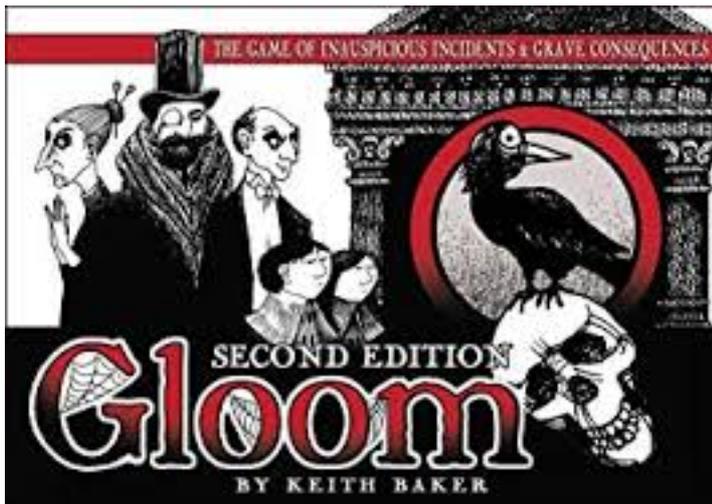
### **University of Kent Ambassadors Supporting Brompton Academy Students**

Ambassadors from the University of Kent are regular reading buddies with Year 8 in the Library.

A brilliant break in the school day allows time to read and talk about books. Students are introduced to new authors, presented with a more sophisticated style of text and get the opportunity to hear how university students encounter new words all the time as part of their courses.

## Well Played

Table-top games have proven to be a fabulous way to get even the quietest students talking, debating and strategising. Each term a new favourite game emerges, such as 'Gloom', where they have to plot in order to give their card 'family' the most miserable experiences possible! Whilst their opponents may be delighted by dolphins this gains unwanted points. The winning storyteller manages to move their family into the most outrageous, gloomiest lives!



## Identify the Mystery Books

Students were very keen to identify the mystery books in jars; each featuring iconic items from the story. Year 9 students were delighted to be the winners and enjoyed a 'Lunchtime Pizza Feast' in the Refectory. They appreciated their VIP status, and were gently encouraged not to refer to other students as 'Peasants in our Refectory'!

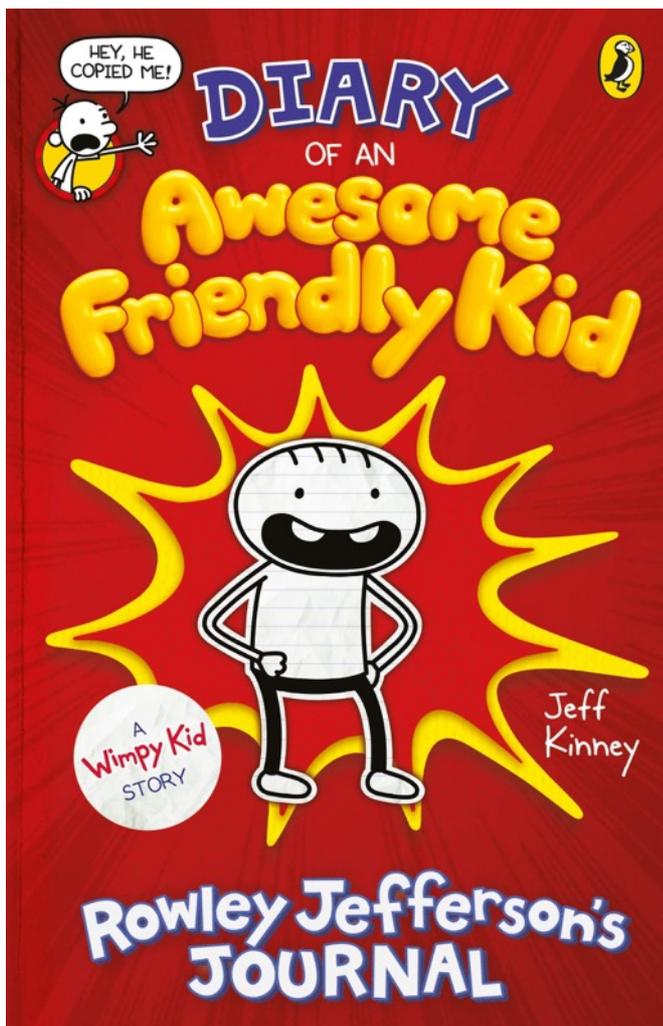


### Out and About with Medway Libraries

We like to work closely with Medway libraries and were delighted that our students were invited to meet author Andrew Cartmel. UKAT students from Chatham Grammar School for Girls and Brompton Academy enjoyed the opportunity to meet and quiz Andrew; author of 'The Vinyl Detective' and 'Rivers of London' graphic novels series at Gillingham Library. Discussions included; writing inspiration and tips, how to get an agent and powerful female role models in Science Fiction!

### Being Friendly Awesome Kids

Every loves 'The Diary of a Wimpy Kid' series, so we decided to celebrate the latest 'Diary of a Friendly Awesome Kid' with students competing to tell us what makes them a 'Friendly Awesome Kid' - a great way to think about positive personal attributes and boosting vocabulary with less frequently used words! Copies of the book as prizes has generated much excitement!



## Team Spirit is High in the Brompton Academy Rounders Team

Year 8 and 9 students trained during Terms 4 and 5 to prepare for a tournament against several local schools.

The Rounders tournament was held at Rainham School for Girls, and our students competed against eleven teams. The BA Team made our academy very proud with their positive team spirit during the day; enjoying the competition whilst doing their best by competing against ten teams.

The results were as follow: 4 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. Overall they were placed 5th.

Well done for your efforts: Abi, Maya, Bryony, Ophelia, Mckenzie, Rhiannon, Eydie, Xandrix, Sophie, Amara, Jessica, Rhiannon



## Eliot Students' Showcase their Creative Talents

Year 9 students from the Eliot Centre created a fabulous texture rug for the Relaxation Room. The rug was completed as part of a 'giving back to the community' project.

The rug was presented to the Head of Eliot Centre, Mrs Miller, to add additional comfort to the Sensory Room. All students who contributed are thanked for their efforts.



## Easter Camp Excitement for UKAT CCF



After a long winter's break the time had come for the long awaited Easter Camp at St Martin's Plain. For some of the cadets this was their first camp and residential; all were very excited if not apprehensive at what lay ahead, especially as it was shared with CGSG CCF.



Once the cadets had been introduced to their billets they were given a marching tour of the camp, finishing at the cookhouse for a well-deserved lunch.

After several servings, and extra puddings, the cadets rolled out and went straight into weapon training and the camp trim trail, (we thought that after such a big lunch we needed to burn some calories off!).

Captain Knight conducted a group introduction on how to tackle each obstacle, and one by one they overcame the obstacles, and in some cases their fears too; all in preparation for the main obstacle course. The day went quickly as the cadets fired on the indoor digital range and completed several leadership tasks and drill lessons (marching).

Another night of activities wore the cadets out; lights out at 10.00pm and by 10.30pm all were asleep dreaming of their breakfast no doubt! The obstacle course included; cargo nets, eight foot walls, tunnels, high walk and rope swings set up to test their resilience, confidence and ability. A little bit of coaxing was required, but together they all made it through – well done all!

The coach turned up, and after another hearty lunch, the cadets were on their way home, but within five minutes of the journey the majority were asleep.



# Year 9 and UKAT Sixth Form Visit Athens with the University of Kent

A group of Year 12 students from the UKAT Sixth Form and Year 9 students from Brompton Academy have been taking part in the Athena Award this year; together with student ambassadors and lecturers from our Lead Sponsor, the University of Kent.



Students have been developing research and creative writing skills, and also writing their application for a scholarship to visit to Athens where the University of Kent has a campus.

The group visited the Acropolis including the fabulous new Acropolis Museum, the Agora, Theatre of Dionysus, the National Gardens, the Panathenaic Stadium exploring and dining in the Plaka as well as the changing of the guard outside parliament, followed by writing workshops against an amazing backdrop of the Acropolis.

This superb experience is being followed up in Terms 5 and 6 with workshops and a special event.



## Year 9 Student Achieves International Go-Karting Success

Brompton Academy Year 9 student, Zach, competed in the IAME Benelux Series in Ostrikourt France and proudly took the top position on the winning podium!

What a great achievement for this young man who shows ongoing commitment and dedication to pursuing a career in go karting.

Zach comments on his success:

*'It was a very good weekend with good pace; although we could have had a bit more speed after losing our better race engine in the lead-up, but even with the weather changing from wet to dry, the set-up and the feeling was good. I'm pretty happy considering it was a tight race, so we just need to keep pushing now and go for winning the competition.'*



## Basketball International Ex-Player Inspires Students

We were fortunate enough to have Pierre Henry Fontaine, an ex England Basketball player, visit the Academy and speak to our students.

Pierre interacted with one hundred and sixty students to help motivate them with their career aspirations and lifestyle choices. Pierre also put our students through their paces running a basketball fitness session.



He inspired our students in an assembly about his pathway and gave a demonstration of his basketball skills to the students; encouraging them to lead healthier lifestyles.

The students really enjoyed participating in Basketball and watching Pierre do his thing, throwing three pointers with ease!

We would like to thank 'Sports For Champions' who helped us organise the visit and especially Pierre for his brilliant motivational talk.

## An Amazing Year for UKAT DofE Participants

Students have been working really hard to complete all of their individual programmes. Participants have been volunteering in our newly acquired kit store plus helping out in our Library and in the Science department.

We have nearly completed the Bronze cooking elective. Fifteen students have been making some fantastic recipes, including sausages rolls, biscuits, pizza and brownies to name but a few.

Our Silver participants are completing a First Aid at Work course. At the end of the elective they will have gained a formal qualification which they can add to their CVs. Some of the skills they have learnt to deal with include; choking, CPR, bleeding and burns.



The expedition season started in earnest at the end of March and what a huge success.

We had eighty-three students completing their Bronze practice at Buckmore Park, and then on to Maidstone for their assessed expedition.

On the training days at Buckmore Park, students learnt how to put up a tent and how to pack a rucksack (not as easy as you may think).

They were shown how to cook on a Trangia (a small cooking stove), learnt about first aid, the country code, map reading, navigation skills and how to use a compass.

On the assessed expedition, students were remotely supervised and using their pre-planned routes had to navigate their way around the Maidstone area. It was a hugely successful couple of days, and although parts of it were certainly challenging, students showed great teamwork skills and perseverance.



Our Silver participants also took part in practice and assessed expeditions at the beginning of May, through bumps, scrapes, laughter, tears, rain, mud, hail, thunder, and eventually sunshine and their absolute determination to succeed, they managed to reach the finish line.



We are very proud of all of the students who took part, once again they were a credit to the Academy.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the DofE staff who volunteer their time to enable the Academy to offer this highly valued award: Mrs Culham, Mr Webster, Mr Whitehead, Mr Jefford, Miss Hill, Mr Hardman, Miss Newington, Mr Fox, Miss Goosey, Mrs Banner, Miss Tivey, Ms Dexter and last but not least our parent volunteer Mr Wyatt.

Thank you, for your continued dedication and enthusiasm.

If you would like to find out more information about the DofE programme, please contact the DofE team at [badofe@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:badofe@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk).



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## Inter-Form Football Competition is a Resounding Success

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May over one hundred enthusiastic students took part in our annual inter-form football competition held on the Astro Turf. There were some epic games with highly talented football skills on show, but eventually there had to be one winner, and after some nerve wracking penalties the winners were Victory B, narrowly defeating Magdeline A. In total nine teams took part in the tournament to gain valuable points for their houses in the PE Department's inter-form series.

# Adult Education Courses Offered at Brompton Academy

## Access to Higher Education Taster Sessions

During Term 5 the University of Kent have been offering free taster sessions in the subjects that are available on the Access to Higher Education Diploma (Psychology, Sociology, Fine Art, English Literature, Politics and Law, Creative Writing). The taster sessions give adult learners the opportunity to try out the subjects before enrolling onto the Access programme at Brompton Academy. We would like to invite you to attend one of the following taster sessions during Term 6:

English Literature Wednesday 5th June, 6 - 7.30pm

Politics and Law Wednesday 12th June, 6 - 7.30pm

Creative Writing Wednesday 19th June, 6 - 7.30pm

For further information and to book your place, please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/accesshe](http://www.kent.ac.uk/accesshe). Alternatively, email [adult learning@kent.ac.uk](mailto:adultlearning@kent.ac.uk) or telephone 01227 823662.



### Interested in our Access course but not sure if it's for you?

Come along to our free taster sessions to try out the subjects available on the Access to Higher Education Diploma.

Psychology	Tuesday 7 May
Art	Tuesday 14 May
Sociology	Tuesday 21 May
English Literature	Wednesday 5 June
Politics and Law	Wednesday 12 June
Creative Writing	Wednesday 19 June

Brompton Academy, Marlborough Road, Gillingham 6pm-7.30pm

For further information and to book your place:  
[www.kent.ac.uk/accesshe](http://www.kent.ac.uk/accesshe)  
 E: [adultlearning@kent.ac.uk](mailto:adultlearning@kent.ac.uk)  
 T: 01227 823662

# Mindfulness Programme

The practice of Mindfulness has been around for thousands of years; Brompton Academy embarked on our Mindfulness journey through our Adult and Family Learning Programme three years ago. We have been lucky enough to be able to offer the increasingly popular Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) courses to adults and now are pleased to be able to invite adults who have previously attended an MBSR course to attend a 'Booster Session'. The three-hour session will enable participants to practice some of the formal mindfulness meditations; revision of unhelpful thinking and other habits and the introduction of some new meditations. The session will be taking place on Saturday 29th June 2019, from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Brompton Academy. The fee is £55 per person.

Quote from a previous learner *"Mindfulness is a powerful tool that you can use anywhere. I have learnt to live in the here and now and not worry about things that haven't happened yet."*

To register your interest in our next MBSR course (£150 per person) which is due to commence in October 2019, please contact Mary Murison on 01634 583548 or email [marymurison@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:marymurison@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk).

A vertical poster with a light blue background and a white central text box. The text is centered and reads: 'MBSR BOOSTER SESSION SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 10AM - 1PM AT BROMPTON ACADEMY £55 PER PERSON'. Below this, there is a horizontal line, followed by two paragraphs of smaller text describing the session. At the bottom, contact information is provided. The poster is decorated with a vertical strip of cherry blossom branches on the right side.

MBSR  
BOOSTER SESSION  
SATURDAY 29TH JUNE  
10AM - 1PM  
AT BROMPTON ACADEMY

£55 PER PERSON

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A session for adults who have previously attended an eight week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) course.

During the three hour session participants will practice some of the formal mindful meditations; revision of unhelpful thinking and other habits and the introduction of some new meditations.

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT  
MARY MURISON ON 01634 583548

## Easter Transitions Workshops

The Easter break got off to a fantastic start with over one hundred new Year 7 students attending the Easter Transitions Workshops. Students got the opportunity to take part in either the Sports, Science, Musical Theatre or Cooking workshop. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the activities, where lots of new friendships were forged. The unique project has been specifically designed to ease the transition from primary to secondary school. Parents/Carers and family members were invited to attend the 'grand finale' where all students showcased what they had been doing during the project.

***100% of students feel that they are looking forward to starting at BA in September 2019!***

Whilst students were participating in their chosen workshops, parents/carers were invited to attend our bespoke Parents and Carers Information Sessions delivered by key BA and University of Kent (UoK) staff. The information sessions covered a variety of subjects such as, how to support your child's transition to the Academy, Personal Tutoring, iPads, BA uniform and how you might feel as a parent/carers about your child starting secondary education.

***100% of parents/carers would recommend the sessions to other parents/carers.***

The project finished with an amazing Inflatables event which was organised by the Associates of Brompton Academy. The Associates raise funds to enrich the education and learning experiences of students at Brompton Academy through fun and profitable activities. The Associates meet once per term to discuss fundraising opportunities. If you would to know more information about Associates or to join, please contact Liam Hebden (Community Team) by email [liamhebden@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:liamhebden@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk).

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