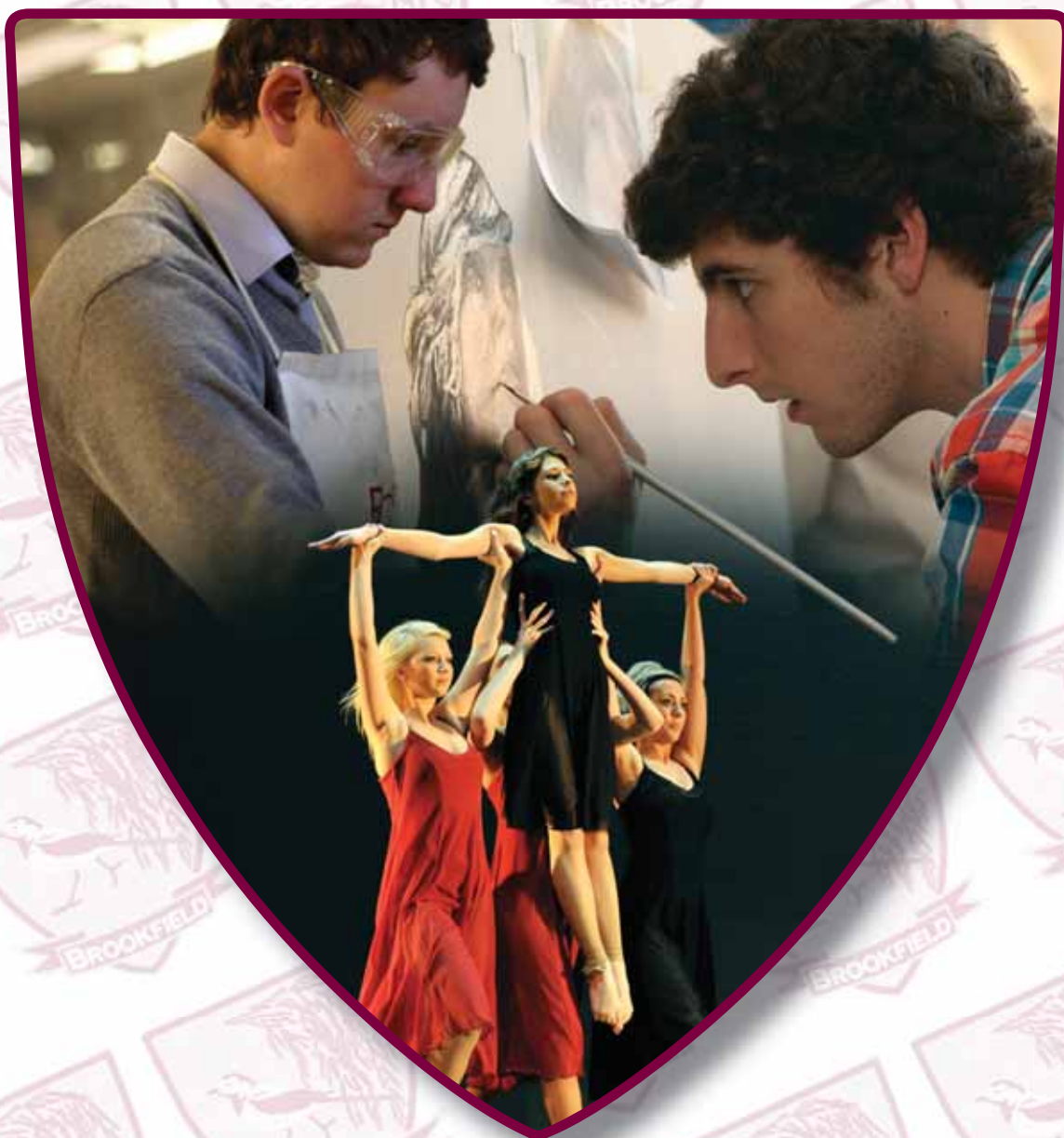




# Brookfield Community School





## Brookfield... The Sixth Form

Brookfield is an 11-18 comprehensive school with around 1330 students including a successful Sixth Form of over 350, situated on the western edge of Chesterfield in a pleasant suburb, close to the Peak District National Park.

We have a strong and discernible ethos that is reflected in our aims. We have the highest expectations of our students in every area of school life. The quest for academic excellence is a very significant part of what we do. However, the belief that we are here to develop the whole individual is very important to us. Students are given every opportunity to develop as individuals within a strong community. They are listened to and valued as young adults preparing for the next stage in their learning and training.

We look to the Sixth Form to be role models and leaders for the student body and many take on significant responsibilities. Brookfield aims to enable each student to achieve his or her potential and offers a very special Post-16 education.



*"I think the difference between me two years ago and me now is huge and the Sixth Form is largely responsible for that."*

Year 13 Leaver



Brookfield aims to be a school where commitment, participation, involvement and achievement are expected of all.

- A school where Learning and Teaching are at the heart of all we do. Where there is a high level of challenge in classrooms, but where there is still room for laughter and for fun. Where teachers seek to innovate and ideas are welcomed as the natural currency of learning. A school where everyone is passionate about learning.
- A school where there is clarity of purpose. Where students know what their objectives are and all positive pursuits of those objectives are rewarded - high levels of attendance, positive behaviour, effort or attainment.
- A school that knows what each student is capable of and seeks to ensure that every student has the opportunity to enjoy achievement. Where information regarding student progress is shared regularly with learners and with parents. Where students are encouraged to be responsible for their own progress.
- A school that is in the heart of its community and aims to communicate positively and directly with it. A school that recognises that in all policies and procedures, simplicity is a virtue.
- A school that recognises mistakes as part of a learning process - a school where everyone has the desire to succeed but the courage to fail, and praise and encouragement are the natural currency between staff and students, students and their peers and staff and their colleagues.
- A school where students value and support each other, and regularly join together to help others. Where students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to their community.
- A school that is alive with creativity - sport, art, drama, music and song, language, experimentation, understanding, empathy, warmth and fun. A school that promotes the health and well being of all and the development of the whole person.

*"Students make good progress in the sixth form."*

Ofsted



## Learning in the Sixth Form

We are a school that cares deeply about learning – about the process of learning and about the subjects that we teach. We see it as part of a duty to pass on that enthusiasm and to create life-long learners - and we try and create learning experiences that are enjoyable and memorable.

You will find that we expect a great deal from the new Year 12 student. In addition to a greater academic demand, the Sixth Form is a transition into further study and employment. Students are expected to have greater independence, effective time management skills and a willingness to practise self-discipline.

They need to develop their analytic and reasoning skills and be able to accept constructive criticism. There is more flexibility in the way that you work and the ability to be able to initiate your own work and background reading is essential for success, as is commitment and a consistent approach. These expectations impose responsibilities on you which, in themselves, are part of your continuing education.



*"I enjoyed getting to learn different and intriguing subjects and getting to understand the reasoning behind them. I also loved meeting new people in my year group who helped me throughout the year. The teachers themselves are very supportive and I have appreciated their help throughout my time here at Brookfield Community School."*

Year 13 Leaver



## Learning Together

We are a community school, something we place great value upon, bringing students together across year groups to work and reflect together. The strength of relationships that exist between students and staff – something that has been particularly noted in both of our last two inspections – helps us maintain a strong school ethos and that sense of community. We are a comprehensive school and proud to be so. We recognise that success means different things to different students and we look to create opportunities for all of them. We feel that that diversity is part of our strength and our ethos.

Your form tutor is your first line of contact for attendance and routine administration. In addition they are there to support you if you have any difficulties over your time in the Sixth Form. Within your form you will carry out a variety of form activities and so you will get to know this group of people really well.

Your form tutor, Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, Careers advisor and others will work with you to review your academic progress and discuss strategies for meeting targets in addition to helping you prepare for life after the Sixth Form.

The Learning Support team and our Learning Mentors work with students who need additional support.

Brookfield Community School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the community to share this commitment.

*“Students speak very positively about the feedback they receive on their work. They say the sixth form promotes very good personal as well as academic development, built on strong relationships between teachers, students and parents.”*

Ofsted

*“I enjoyed the atmosphere and the acceptance into the school and the sixth form, with both teachers and students being friendly.”*

Year 13 Leaver



## Extending Learning

There are numerous opportunities for you to be involved in learning in addition to your chosen courses.

All Year 12 students follow a General Studies Programme during form period and may be entered for the General Studies examinations at AS level. Towards the end of the year the focus changes to preparation for University or job applications and support. Personal Development issues are also investigated during the form period.

The Chances Course is a valued part of our extended learning. You will be expected to complete 20 hours of an extra curricular course over the year. Many students find this such a valuable experience that they continue past the 20 hours and into Year 13. Opportunities are wide and varied, including activities such as Duke of Edinburgh Award, Sports Leaders Award, Young

Enterprise, Primary School Support, Lesson Support, Buddy Reading, Recreational Sport, Community Work and many more.

Sixth Form students take on responsibilities such as Prefects, Sports Organisers and Classroom Assistants. They participate in the various school music and drama productions, take part in public speaking or debating competitions and are involved in a variety of school trips. They also work as School Council or Year Council representatives. The Year Council meet regularly to discuss issues of common concern and are also responsible for the organisation of social events.

In order to get the most out of your time here at Brookfield and to develop into confident, fully rounded adults, we encourage you to join in!

*"A wide range of extra activities enhances students' experience and enables them to develop personal and leadership skills. These include producing videos to support Year 7 and 11 in their transition to a new key stage, Young Enterprise and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. These opportunities are greatly appreciated by students, who act as excellent role models for students in the main school through the outstanding support they provide and the commitment they show to their studies."*

Ofsted



## Expectations and School Dress

Our Sixth Form students play a significant part in the wider life of the school. We therefore expect them to set the example for the rest of the school to follow.

Sixth Form students do not wear the same school uniform as Years 7 – 11. However, we do expect that they adhere to a formal school dress code. In essence this is smart business dress. Further details can be found in the enclosed Dress Matters Leaflet.



*"Students have outstanding opportunities to explore contemporary issues; for example, British values and moral issues, including extremism and racism. This supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and their understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship, extremely well."*

Ofsted

*"Time spent at Brookfield seems at the same time both very long and very short. However, I can say with complete certainty that I am proud to have gone to Brookfield; proud that I am the product of such a school. I am extremely grateful for what it has provided for me not only academically, but personally. I shall be sad to leave it behind, but am excited for the future."*

Year 13 Leaver



## Learning Environment

Brookfield is well resourced, with increasingly impressive facilities. A new Sports Hall was opened in 2006, which has created the opportunity for new activities in the PE curriculum, as well as allowing us to develop a full programme of Community activities. In 2010 we also installed a new artificial grass pitch.

Every teaching space has an interactive white board, and the student to computer ratio is now better than the government recommendation. Each year we try to further improve the learning environment for our students and we have an excellent track record in attracting funding to support these developments.

A well resourced Library is available for use by Sixth Form students throughout the day. In addition to being used for private study there are a wide range of books, newspapers, magazines and other resources to aid you in your studies and wider background reading.

The Careers Collection is also based in the library and includes a large range of careers guidance material, university prospectuses and information on university applications.

A study area is also available for private study and Sixth Form students have access to the canteen throughout the day where many work or meet for relaxation.







## Courses and Entry Requirements

We offer a wide range of AS and A2 courses to choose from. Detailed information, including subject specific entry requirements, can be found in the enclosed Course Information booklet. This range of subjects is offered dependant on uptake; a subject which attracts only a small number of students may be unable to run.

There is little to be gained from following a course which is unsuitable or too difficult. You will need, therefore, to talk to your subject teachers to get a realistic picture of your capabilities. It may also help to have an idea of the subjects that you may need for your chosen career.

The basic entry requirement into the Sixth Form is five GCSE passes at grade A\*-C including either English or Maths. Anyone who does not achieve a C grade in GCSE English Language or Maths will

need to re-sit during the course of Year 12. Any GCSE equivalents will count as one qualification towards the five.

Where you are continuing a subject through from GCSE you are expected to have achieved at least a C grade in that subject.

In addition to your Key Stage 4 qualifications you must show commitment, enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard. Achieving the minimum grades of 5 A\*-C does not automatically guarantee success at AS and A Level.

Students generally commence three AS subjects in Year 12, although a number who have a high GCSE profile start with four subjects.

*"Brookfield has had a huge impact on me, both in terms of my academic qualities and in more general terms. I feel I have grown socially. I have become more independent, more confident and more respectful towards others. It is something I also see in the students around me, also filled with the memories of seven wonderful years. I could not have wished for a better platform to begin my next step in life."*

Y13 Leaver



## Applying and Next Steps

The enclosed application form should be submitted to school by the date indicated.

Before you apply, you should carefully consider your subject choices. The Course Information booklet gives detailed information about each course. Also contained is A Guide to Making Sensible A Level Choices.

Applications will be acknowledged by email and so it is important that you supply us with a current email address on your application form. It is also essential that this email address is one that you check regularly as the majority of further correspondence will be via this address.

ALL students applying for a place in the Sixth Form will attend a short interview. Entry to the Sixth Form is NOT decided on a first come first served basis. The interview is an opportunity to discuss your option choices and to confirm that Brookfield is indeed the best place for you next year. It is also an opportunity for you to find out more about the Sixth Form and discuss any concerns that you may have.

If we are satisfied that your application meets all the formal entry requirements and that Sixth Form study at Brookfield is a sensible choice we will offer you a provisional place at interview. This place is provisional on you meeting our qualification requirements for the courses that you wish to study.

At Induction Day in the summer term after your GCSE examinations you will find out more about life in the Sixth Form and how it differs to Year 11. You will also experience AS lessons and may even be set some work to be completed prior to the start of the AS course! Current Year 12 students will be available to answer subject specific or other questions. This will provide a valuable insight into each subject and help to ensure that the correct option choices have been made. There will also be the opportunity for you to work with one another in a less formal setting. This is an ideal opportunity for you to meet the Year 12 Tutor Team and students who will be joining the Sixth Form from other schools.

You will be expected to attend a further interview after receiving your results where final decisions regarding your entry to the Sixth Form and the subjects that you wish to take will be determined.



*"Sixth Form was very useful in helping me mature as a student; it gave me a feeling of independence in comparison to years 7-11 and helped me further improve my skills in subjects I enjoy. Lessons about driving safety were useful."*

Year 13 Leaver

*'Having only spent two years at Brookfield I would recommend the Sixth Form to anyone that will give me a chance, it was the time of my life'*

Former Sixth Form student





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