Welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of our Community Newsletter.

As you will be aware, we have undertaken a number of actions to address the concerns raised by our neighbours over the last year. I hope you will enjoy and experience the benefits of these in the future. If you would like more information about the actions we have taken, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Everyone at the school participated in The Poppy Proms in the Park at The Memorial Recreation Ground in November. The school facilitated this moving and inclusive community event and we were delighted to welcome so many local community groups, community representatives and members of the public.

If you would like to visit the school to see our facilities and meet our young people, please let us know or come along to one of our community events. Our Bradstock Music Festival is on Saturday 6th July 2019.

On behalf of everyone in our school community I wish you a Happy New Year.

Regards, Sarah Dunn, Headteacher

Bradstow | Improvements

Sound Reduction Strategy

As part of our Sound Reduction Strategy to enhance our neighbours experience of the school a number of improvements have been implemented. Specialist acoustic fencing (similar to that used near motorways) has been erected on the school’s western and southern boundaries, behind Aspen and Willow Children’s Homes respectively. These are 3 metres high and 81 metres long in total, with access for the schools groundsman to maintain the shrubbery and trees between this and the outer fences. In addition new door closures have been installed in the children’s homes, as well as acoustic panels installed to the corridor ceiling and dining rooms that greatly reduce sound from the homes. We genuinely do hope the efforts the school has made address any concerns regarding sound from the school impacting on our neighbours and the perception of our special young people.
Bradstow | Improvements (continued)

Courtyards Improvements
To enhance the facilities and living environment for our young people the school has invested in new Astroturf for the courtyards between the children’s homes. This will enable more use of these areas, and to support this a new outdoor table tennis and table-top football game have been added to the courtyard facilities.

New astroTurf being fitted in Woodlands2 outdoor play area

New outdoor table tennis table

New outdoor table football

Bradstow | News & Events

Christmas Show | 8 Dec 2018
Our recent Christmas show was Lego-themed. The day was well attended by parents/carers and staff and consisted of a Christmas fayre, an online safety talk and the show itself. Everyone took part and included several solo acts. Lots of fun was had by all.

Opening of Sensory Garden | 21 Sept 2019
Bradstow School have been awarded a grant of £11,250 from Lord’s Taverners for outdoor sensory play equipment for our Sensory Garden. The Lord’s Taverners provides grants to SEN Schools to enable them to purchase a range of outdoor playground and gym equipment.

It is essential that children with severe learning and physical disabilities have access to suitable and adapted outdoor play equipment. Physical activity is proven to improve children’s physical and mental health, help develop emotional responses and learning skills and improving basic numeracy and literacy.

Before the installation of the equipment a team from Lloyds Bank spent a day clearing part of the area which had become overgrown, and once the groundwork was complete Darren Miller led teams of our young people in planting trees and shrubs to make this a truly special area.

Representatives from the Lord’s and Lady’s Taverners visited the school on 21st September 2018 to officially open the sensory garden, and a number of young people were able to have their first experience of the new equipment and regenerated area.

Everyone enjoyed their afternoon and thanked our visitors for their generosity in providing such lovely facilities for our children and young people.
Poppy Proms | 10, 11 Nov 2018

Over Remembrance weekend, 10th and 11th November 2018, Bradstow School hosted an inclusive, interactive commemoration of World War 1 at the Memorial Recreation Ground 1914-1918 in Broadstairs.

The aim of the event was to enable young people of all abilities and the members of our local community to learn and reflect together in an interactive and experiential manner. Headteacher, Sarah Dunn said “It was a privilege to be part of such a truly inclusive and poignant event in the very heart of our local community. Thank you to all those who participated and supported this inspirational commemoration. We all have so much to be thankful for.”

Events started on Saturday 10th November, with a living history exhibit of life during 1914-1918, which gave a glimpse into the home front and beyond with specific detail of events in Broadstairs and St Peters. A life-size warhorse sculpture, created during inclusive art workshops run by Helen Whitehead at Bradstow and other local schools, was on display. The Great War Trench Experience evoked the sights and sounds of life on the Western Front, the Trust for Thanet Archeology’s time tunnel gave insight into the times and the 6th Ramsgate Sea Scout Group were on hand to teach some essential field craft such as rope making.

Refreshments were available from Bessie Caravan, The Red Bean Machine, Larder Catering and Rent-a-Bar – who were serving Gadd’s Warhorse beer, brewed especially for Poppy Proms in the Park.

On Saturday evening special guest Sam West told local stories with local narrators; Sarah and Harry Dunn, Paul Gorham, Mike Kemlo, Harry Day, Ros Binks, Robert Hiller and Kerry Millett. Bradstow School choir and dancers were the first to take the stage followed by Inspirations Inclusive Theatre, Thanet Gospel Choir, Thanet Big Sing Community Choir, Kent Show Choir, Gaddzukes, Sea Shanty Singers, Mezza Soprano Rosie Evans, Stage Door Dancers and an orchestra conducted by Edward Greenhalgh joined on Sunday by 3 musicians for Music for Autism. Performers used acting, dance, song and music to bring the Poppy Proms in the Park to life within a large big top tent.

Whilst events continued at the Memorial Ground and Bradstow School’s #innocentsStill commemoration took place, with volunteers, dressing as named soldiers from Broadstairs and St Peters who were lost during the Great War, walking around Broadstairs as a living memorial. The Innocents handed cards to the public with details of the soldier they were remembering, their age and date of death and their regiment and rank.

The whole event was free to the public and very well attended, with many members of the community braving the wind and rain to be there. Local resident, Maggie Evans, told Bradstow School how she felt about the performances “I was entertained, stirred, and moved, in equal measure. Surely the words from Jerusalem about building a better world were brought to life today in the inclusivity of the performance.”
Work Experience Programme

65 of every 100 people with learning disabilities say that they would like a job, but only 6 have them.

We are fortunate to have some very successful and ongoing working experience placements, and are always seeking more to match to the gifts and interests of our young people. Our aim is to not only find placements for our young people to gain working experience and skills for equal life chances as they move into adulthood, but also to create strong and committed partnerships that contribute towards the strength of our community. Many placements find that not only have they had an extra pair of helping hands, but it has also improved their organisation’s outlook on diversity.

One typical comment from the manager of a local supermarket included: “He has grown in confidence and really does work well with the colleagues in our team”. This shows how our young people benefit from this experience, which advances their understanding of the world of work, social skills and teamwork in a way that no other opportunity in education is able to match.

Please take the time to consider whether your organisation (or others you have links to) would be interested in finding out about what is involved in offering a placement to one of our young people. A member of staff from Bradstow is always present to support during their work experience either in a supervisory or coaching capacity in order that the young person is able to access the learning on the job, and to minimise any workload on the placement organisation. Do get in touch, and pass on our contact details to anyone else who might like to learn more. Email: inclusion@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities should have equal life chances as they move into adulthood.

Bradstow | Up & Coming

Recruitment Open Day | 10am—2pm Sat 16 March 2019

If you are currently looking for work then please join us for our recruitment open day. The day will begin with coffee and registration visitors, where you will be presented with a welcome pack. This will be followed by presentations starting with an introduction to Bradstow, information on the Children’s Home Regulations and key safeguarding points.

Visitors will then be invited to a number of stalls manned by key staff members who will provide information on, the recruitment process, the roles and responsibilities of various jobs within the Bradstow community. The People Development Team will be on hand to discuss the induction programme, learning and development opportunities and the health and well-being package which is offered to staff.

The day will conclude with a buffet lunch where staff will be available to ask any questions.

Summer Fayre / Bradstock Music Festival | Sat 6 July 2019

This event is open to the general public and will consist of a summer fayre where items will be available for sale followed by a music festival. Refreshments will be provided. Here are some photos of last year’s event: You would be most welcome to join us!