
Brockwood Park School

May/June Newsletter



"But you know, if you have no sense of beauty - not painting and all the rest of it, paint your face and long hair and short nose and the latest fashion, you know - but the feeling of beauty which can only come about when there is total abandonment of selfishness, the total abandonment of 'me' which thought has created. That means there is only beauty when thought is silent. You understand this? I've got it. You understand that? Not when thought is chattering about the thing that is painted. Only when thought is completely silent, then there is beauty. But when you say, 'How is thought to be silent?', which is what you will ask - then you have lost beauty. And the gurus and all the professionals are supplying how to make thought silent. Therefore they never had beauty. And when you pursue them, you are denying beauty. For god's sake see this. We'll have to stop soon. The whole meaning, the whole substance of life is this, if you can capture it and live with it; and if you do live with it then you will affect every consciousness of human being. You can't help it. Right sir."

J. Krishnamurti Fifth Public Talk in Saanen 22 July 1975

Inquiry Time



May 1st: What is beauty?

Small group discussions. At the beginning we had ten minutes of personal reflection into what is beauty and then we started the conversation 'Is beauty a feeling'? The object might vary, but is the experience the same? We get used to seeing what is around us, people and nature, and as a consequence we seem to kill the freshness of seeing something or somebody for the first time.

May 8th: Hurt

We watched a fifteen minute Krishnamurti video on hurt and then we broke up into smaller groups to discuss the topic. We are so easily hurt, why? Someone hurts us and we feel so bad. We are so used to it that it is a challenge to see what is behind, the mechanism that allows it to happen. Is it possible not to be hurt?

May 15th: Silence and listening

The whole school was divided into smaller groups and explored silence and listening by going outside and noticing the kind of sounds that could be heard and the prevailing silence of the countryside. Then we shared the experience and discussed it together.

June 12th: Ending

The whole school discussed together the topic of ending and change. What does it mean to end something? Are we constantly changing and therefore dying? Why is so difficult to let something go? The movement to solidify and conclude creates a tension with the fact that change is an intrinsic part of us which creates conflict.

A Time to Reflect

In our final term at Brockwood Park, the community of students, staff, teacher-apprentices, and mature-students often experience some of the busiest moments of the year. Classes wind down as students finish their study programmes. Many take exams. Staff write their final reports and build new timetables to present students with end-of-year workshops. Our end-of-year project fair takes place and students present some of their projects and class activities. Students also begin packing away their rooms. Some write leaving-speeches. Many prepare for a summer-play, concert, and then of course theres camp. Some spend precious moments with those who will not return next year. Others simply take time to reflect on their year.

All this commotion in the final weeks raises questions about our relationship to Brockwood and how it impacts us over the course of a year. What perceptions did we have at the beginning of the year and have they changed? What changes might have made us improve our relationship with others? What learning took place for us in the classroom or outside of our lessons in the daily movement of living?

In these final weeks of June, many of us have looked back upon what we have learned and have observed many invitations to continue our own education. An education not only in our academic interests but also in relationships and what it means to really live together. In the span of a Brockwood year there is always space for one to gain a deeper understanding of oneself, as there is in all places. Exploring what one learns, how and why one learns, and what blocks learning brings great opportunity and helps

foster a sensitivity which prepares one to meet life's daily challenges. When anyone leaves Brockwood whether it be a student, staff, teacher-apprentice, or mature-student they take with them a deeper appreciation for reflection. Whether they experienced it here through inquiry, dialogue, journaling, tea-servers' chats, documentation of projects, performances, interviews, essays, guest speakers, or simply being in silence or going for a solo walk around our serene and beautiful grounds, it will have been a part of their lives and it will likely continue to be in their future.

In this final newsletter of the term, we would like to share some of these moments through a series of videos and photographs taken in these final weeks.

Videos

To be a dancer!

What does it take to be a dancer? Technique? Determination? Flexibility? It is all of these things and many more. In this video, Annika shares her passion for dance with us and talks us through the many attributes which are required of a dancer.



Searching for Solutions

Our students are making Bioplastic from potato peels!



School Gallery



Brockwood's approach of providing individualised study programs for students is assisted by providing students with an opportunity to try out various classes and activities which they may take on next year. Taking place over two weeks, the end-of-year workshops give a small sample of the many options Brockwood provides and helps students make more informed choices in choosing their path for next year. This photo was taken during the beekeeping workshop.



Brockwood has many beehives and students have shown a strong interest in learning more about these amazing insects.



Tina gathering Hawthorn flowers to dry which, in the Autumn, will be combined with the Hawthorn berries to produce a tincture which supports the heart and circulation.



Nils participating in an oil-painting speed portrait workshop at the end of the term.



A presentation of a mock debate and election campaign held on behalf of the Global Issues Topic Course.



During the final two weeks of classes, various workshops were offered such as the craft of bookbinding. Above, students are measuring paper for their hand-bound book.



Holly and Laia on stage during the theatre performance *An Inspector Calls*. A group of students spent six weeks rehearsing with actor and drama teacher Gerard Bayle.



In Brockwood's performance of *An Inspector Calls* there were three different groups of actors who shared the roles by splitting the scenes. This allowed for a larger group to have the opportunity to perform.



The cast of *An Inspector Calls* along with Gerard Bayle receiving a final applause.



Winchester Hill became the classroom for these EAL students on Monday, 20 May. Walking in the footsteps of Bronze Age humans, the students were learning new words to describe the remaining landscape features which give us clues to the lives of our ancestors.



Marc, Janhavee, and Mahima dressed for the annual dinner dance, a special meal ending with an evening of dance.



A warm applause for all of the those in the community who helped prepare the meal and arranged and decorated the Dining-Hall.



Some of the students from the Leaver’s Hike taking a break from their journey. The group spent three days hiking through Dartmoor National Park in Devon before joining the whole school camp in Cornwall.



The evening assembly at camp. Ainara reads out the list of duties and responsibilities of various groups, from cooking to morning jobs to rota.



Meher and Gemma ensuring their tent doesn't leave without them.



Laia and Lucia running to catch some waves. While at camp, most students spent a morning or afternoon surfing at Watergate Bay in Cornwall.



Alex enjoying the ride into the shore.



A surprise pizza dinner for one evening of our camp. This little van with an oven and two owners prepared over 100 delicious stone-baked pizzas for us all.



Holly and Nils patiently waiting for their pizza!



Nino and Laia spending an afternoon at Watergate Bay sitting along the rocks and sketching in front of the ocean.



Rowan giving his leavers' speech during the last few days of the term. This year, there were forty leavers' speeches.



The EAL students performed a play they had been rehearsing for two terms. Each student worked on developing their character, learning new vocabulary and how to execute and master the English language for a live performance in front of the school.



Every year the leavers overtake the kitchen and prepare a breakfast for the entire school. This year there were pancakes, fried eggs, fruit salad and many more dishes!



Rowan squeezing fresh orange juice for the leavers breakfast.



Leavers laying out the breakfast on the South Lawn.



Students Finn and Tereza will be sailing this handmade 16ft wooden boat over 3000km in three months, so that Tereza can go home to Sochi with the lowest carbon footprint possible. Their degrowth challenge draws attention to sustainable transport options and the pair are taking this trip as a call for action against climate change. The boat was constructed entirely in our Wood-Barn.



Finn and Tereza presenting the journey to Russia they intend to embark on.



Staff member Michael (dressed as a unicorn) hosted the final Informal Evening on our last night of the term. The evening was filled with a variety of skits, games, anecdotes and live performances.



Teacher Apprentices hosting a Brockwood quiz game during the final Informal Evening.



A final, silent walk around the grounds which ended with our annual tree-planting as a final goodbye for the leavers and closure to the year.



The tree-planting took place in the Rose Garden and we all silently placed a handful of soil around a young cherry tree.

When I Am Among Trees

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks, and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."

The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple,"
they say, "and you, too, have come
into the world to do this, to go easy,
to be filled with light, and to shine."

-Mary Oliver

Visit our website at
brockwood.org.uk

STAY CONNECTED


