
Brockwood Park School

November/December Newsletter



Inquiry Time



November 7th. Manners, where do we draw the line?

Two students presented the topic of manners to the whole school. We first had a brainstorm about why manners are present in society. Are manners a form of imposed tradition? If we are sensitive to others and our surroundings, do we need the tradition? Are manners an imposition on us which curtails our freedom? Is it to do with respect and consideration for others? Then we split into small groups to continue the discussion.

November 14th. Pornography and the impact of the industry on young people.

The whole school had watched two 15-minute videos the previous day on porn during ATWAM. One from an ex-porn addicted young male adult and the other one from a mother, feminist, psychologist and human rights writer. These videos were chosen by one staff and one student. We all had to write one question after watching which were collected by students. During the Inquiry Time we chose one question randomly and the dialogue started. It was a lively and serious discussion and many different questions and points were brought up by staff and students. Power, pleasure, sexual attraction, corruption of the sexual attraction, etc.

November 21st. Looking into the role and influence of sex in society.

We continued with the previous Inquiry Time topic in small groups. We used the questions from the previous IT to continue the dialogue. All the questions were handed out to the groups to be read and discussed. Is male and female relationship to porn the same? What do we do with sexual desire? Is there another way to deal with desire than suppression or indulgence? Why is it sometimes considered 'cool' for males to have sex with many females and for females it is not? Is sex a taboo?

November 28th. What drives our wants and needs for the internet?

We decided to start with the whole school discussing the topic to be followed by small group discussion during Parents weekend. Addiction, dealing with boredom, freedom of choice, etc were some of the points made. Can we learn to use internet intelligently? Are we using internet or is internet using us?

December 9th. What drives our wants and needs for the internet?

We continued the same topic during the Parents Weekend. We were divided in small groups and staff, parents and students explored together the effect of internet on our lives. Internet is a powerful tool that can be misused by adults or young people. We all agreed that there are good things about internet and not so good things. Is it a need or a want? What is the difference? Do we only have physical needs? Are we users being shaped by the internet and how it is structured? Are we participants active in constructing what the internet is and is becoming? Are we aware of how we use it and the limits of its use? Are we being influenced and in which ways?



**What preparation can I give my child for today's world?
| J. Krishnamurti**

November/December Events and Happenings

01/11/2018: The **Core Health & Movement** class explored the topics of breathing and endurance training practically, after having looked at the respiratory and cardiovascular systems in the classroom in October. In this session, the group experienced simple exercises to become more aware of their own breathing patterns and reduce restrictions, and learned about the importance of full (diaphragmatic) breathing as well as nasal breathing. The group also learned about different ways of determining the right intensity when engaging in endurance training (such as running): heart rate training, rate of perceived exhaustion and nasal breathing (as a natural limiting mechanism of intensity). The students learned how to measure their own heart rate at rest (before exercise) and then again after a short, first run around the campus, and about a simple way of determining their target heart rate during endurance activities such as running. The second run around the campus was done using only the nose for breathing (no open mouths) - a simple and effective way of determining the right intensity/speed at which to run at in a health context.

02/11/2018:

Following the previous **Elective Art** session on Land Art and after exploring questions about how we relate to our environment, and what it means to be human in this natural world, the class set off to get lost in the ancient woodland near the Bramdean Commons. At first they spent half an hour walking and exploring on our own, then chose a space to respond to by making art, in any medium, and without the pressure of needing to create a certain outcome. Everything was relevant and personal to them. Some photographed, some made sculpture out of the natural materials around them, some drew on the trees with charcoal, some performed and recorded themselves through photography, some sketched, some attempted to follow baby foxes down the trail... At the end the group met under a tree and shared what had happened for each of them.



03/12/2018: The **Global Issues** class is concluding its research into the future of food. To gather all the material the class looked at and produced over the last six weeks, the students and teachers put together a simple blog featuring a podcast, videos, stories and articles on the future of food and food production. Topics include Brockwood's own food, vertical farming (hydroponics), our experiences at a CSA (community supported agriculture) project in Farnham, sustainable food production, food wastage, the impact of animal farming on greenhouse gas emissions, and many more. The blog can be viewed here: <https://globalissuesbp.wordpress.com>

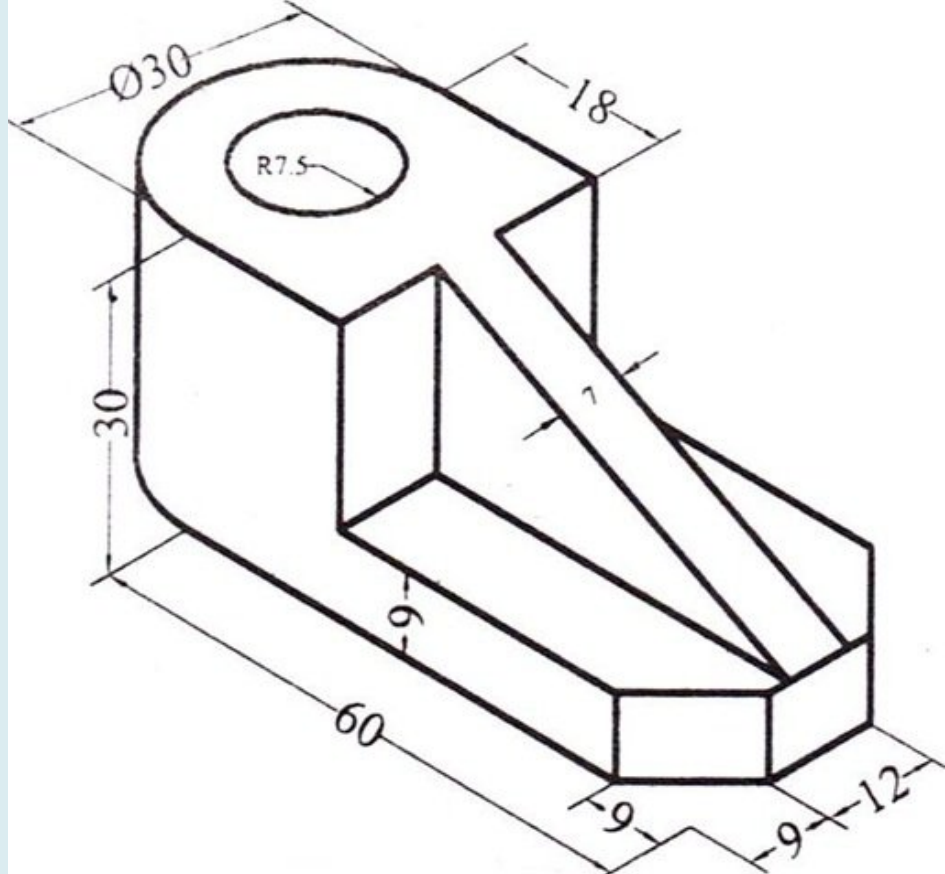
5/11/2018: The **EAL** (English as a second language) class spent two hours in the kitchen, following the instructions of recipes to make parsnip-and-celeriac soup and to bake apple cake, while learning new vocabulary related to kitchen appliances and cooking.



12/11/2018 In **Design and Technical Drawing** Students began to develop Isometric Projections of actual objects which they were presented with at the beginning of class. They measured, scaled and drew exactly the shape in three

planes.

15/11/2018 In **AS History** we were learning about British expansion into Africa during the time of Empire and in particular we were looking at the building of railways. One such railway project was known as the Lunatic Line and the AS students listened to a podcast by the BBC on its fascinating construction. Here is the link if you wish to hear more!
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b012sw15>



15/11/2018 In **Videography** class students and staff experimented with a three point lighting set-up. They added one light at a time and moved each around as they created various styles and moods.



16/11/2018: The **Elective Health & Movement** class explored their relationship with the floor in a movement session in the assembly hall. Starting with a look at the sitting-rising test (used to predict mortality in elderly people), the group then explored a variety of simple and more complex patterns of getting down to and up from the floor. This then led to an exploration of various floor sitting sequences, as well as an introduction to locomotion practice (patterns of moving close to the floor using one's limbs, such as different animal walks) and contemporary floor work (a branch of contemporary dance where one moves on the floor in rhythmic, flowing patterns).

Some of the students had already started practicing these kinds of patterns in the movement workshop during the Autumn Workshop Week



Movement workshop during the Autumn Workshop Week

19/11/2018 A fascinating lesson on the impact of natural disasters on cities in the **Elective Humanities** class. A great reminder that the world around us that seems so solid is ever changing.

19/11/2018: The **Global Issues** class is investigating the future of our food. A research trip brought the class to a local Community Supported Agriculture initiative, where the students learned about the benefits of locally grown organic food, the relationship between farmer and consumer, and the struggles these initiatives face - in the UK and abroad.





28/11/2018: In **Journalism** class they looked at the influence advertisers have had on the content that is made available to the masses. They also examined the rise of what is known as the decentralized web.

28/11/2018: An **Eco-Group** emerged in Brockwood and held their first meeting. Twenty students and staff gathered to examine what more Brockwood can do to reduce its effect on the climate and the Eco-system. The groups watchwords are 'Achievable Goals', 'Strategy', 'Positivity' and 'Humility'. The group have split into five teams: The Research and Data Gatherers; Carbon Capture Team; Carbon Reduction Strategists; the Sustainable Consumerists; and the Waste Management Explorers.



30/11/2018: For **Core Humanities**, the students spent the morning at the Emmaus Community in Winchester. Emmaus are a charity that offer homeless men and women an opportunity of a new start, through a secure place to live and training to reenter the workplace. It was an opportunity for the Core students to ask questions and really engage with the topic of homelessness, which has been the topic of investigation since returning from half term. We were really grateful for a fascinating talk and tour of the community. The team at Emmaus were also grateful for donations given by the school to the charity shop that they have on site.



Here is student Marc's take on the visit:

'This first term we have been learning about the current situation of homelessness. To explore this topic in detail we visited Emmaus, a charity working to end homelessness. Emmaus (Winchester) is a community of 29 individuals who were homeless at some point in the past. When we got there they showed us around the community that they built themselves, we sat in the living room that they had, it was one of the first rooms in the building. Two of the volunteers gave us a talk about how homeless people stayed working and learning there until they felt comfortable to get back into society and a normal life. We also went to the charity shop where we bought some items, the proceeds of which went to the charity.'

03/12/2018 and 07/12/2018: Following a few 'studio' sessions, the **Core Art** students presented their work-in-progress to each other, hanging on the wall and presenting their sketchbook. Their work is diverse, having chosen many different themes and mediums for their personal work, and this was an inspiring opportunity for all of us to ask each other questions and look through a window into another's creative processes and thinking, sharing our discoveries, frustrations and joys. **Elective Art** students did the same on Friday.

04/12/2018: On the last hike of the term, hikers blindfolded volunteers from the group for the first and second halves of the walk. The group guided and supported the volunteers through 1.6 miles of tricky turns, thorny hedges and deep muddy puddles giving their non-visual senses great exercise.

06/12/2018: As classes come to an end we finish up the term with **A2 History** students presenting topics on the Napoleonic Wars. **AS History** students also completed presentations on significant individuals within the British Empire.

In **Herbal Medicine**, students learned how to infuse medicinal oil, using home-grown St. John's Wort. They then used the oil they made to whisk up a simple nerve-soothing and moisturising cream. They also continued getting out and examining medicinal plants that grow around Brockwood, observing the change they undergo through seasons. They then continued learning about the properties of plants directly by examining them through each of their five physical senses.





St. John's Wort (*Hypericum Officinalis*)

Core and Elective Science students have moved onto our second module of the year, looking at Physics and the question, 'What is the relationship between human beings and the wider universe?'. To kick things off they visited the Winchester Science Centre to learn about ways to measure the universe using gravitational fields and light. They also had a wonderful and inspiring virtual tour of our solar system at their magnificent planetarium.



Students try out wearing diffraction glasses. These glasses allow one to see the specific wavelengths of light emitted from different elements.

07/11/19: **Parents Weekend Begins**



There are too many happenings in Brockwood to list but we hope that you enjoyed our snapshot.

Craft Work at Brockwood

Bushcraft



Fire: one of nature's greatest gifts and a life changing discovery for mankind. Today, it is as easy as to strike a match and flick a lighter. Some thousand years ago the story was much different. During Bushcraft, one of the directions of Human Ecology this term, students are invited to learn about fire, from its origins to the traditional ways of lighting a fire. During the five sessions dedicated to this topic, students were shown different methods of ignition, natural and man-made materials to start a fire and appropriate fire layouts according to the weather in the woods. A challenge in many ways, soon, hands and body were engaged in producing a simple flame. And once that flame was lit, no steps can be missed: add more tinder, blow slowly, add small kindling, let it burn. The joy of making a fire from beginning to end was evident. In groups of two, students shared something which is at the core of man's relationship with the natural environment. For the second term the challenge will be even greater: starting a fire with a flint & steel and by friction with a bow drill.

Spoon carving



The spoon carving club gets together every Tuesday afternoon in the woodwork barn. After tea time, and as part of the leisure-leaning ethos at Brockwood, everyone is welcome to show up and join the spoon movement. With no previous experience in woodworking required, making a spoon with your own hands is a meaningful feat. In the spoon carving club we use greenwood, locally and sustainably sourced from the woods in and around Brockwood, and manual tools. By the art of hands and knives, carvers have been whittling cooking spoons, tea spoons, coffee scoops and other creative forms. As the floor of the barn gets paved with curls and chips, our conversations move along with the eclectic soundtrack selected for each session. For the coming term, and even during the winter break, spoon carving will continue. There is a quiet revolution happening. Come and join the spooniverse at Brockwood!

School Gallery



Student Gemma often offers her skills in cutting hair to students, mature students and staff. Above, Gemma trims the hair of staff member Jennifer.



Nils spending some quiet time in front of the aquarium towards the end of the Winter Dinner Dance.



The Art Portfolio group on their way to enter the Royal Academy museum of London to see the Gustave Klimt and Egon Schiele exhibition.



Samira tuning her cello shortly before the start of the winter concert.



Janhavee, Gwen, and Rosa enjoying the clean-up after the final Winter Concert performance.



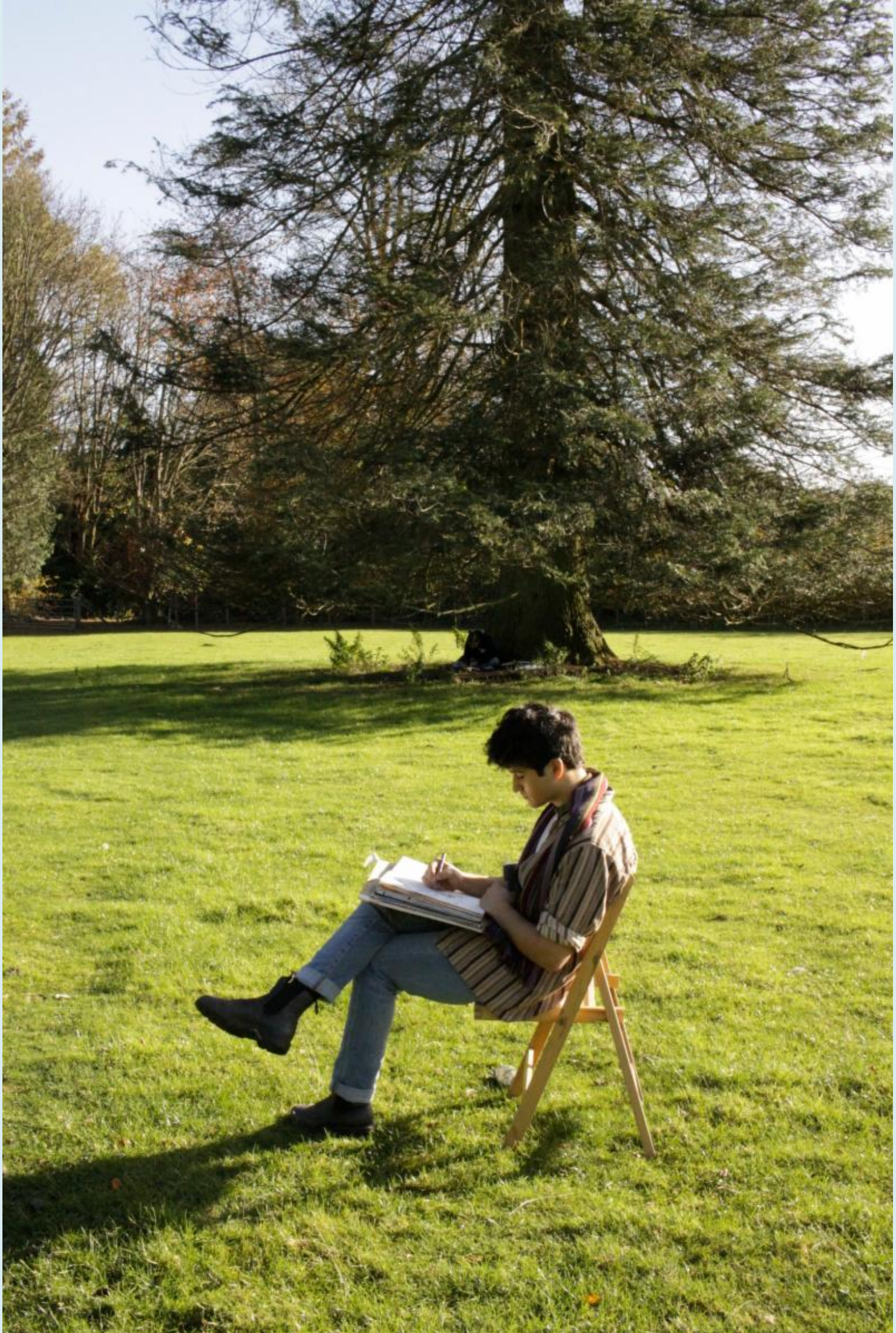
Gemma, Tara, Eva, and Laia on their way to a local cafe to have their final Academic Advisor meeting of the term.



Staff member Ashleigh takes notes during the Klimt, Schiele exhibition at the Royal Academy museum in London.



A group of students performing their mask sketch during the winter concert. The sketch entailed a live mural drawing and brief moments of pauses that had the group engaging with the audience directly.



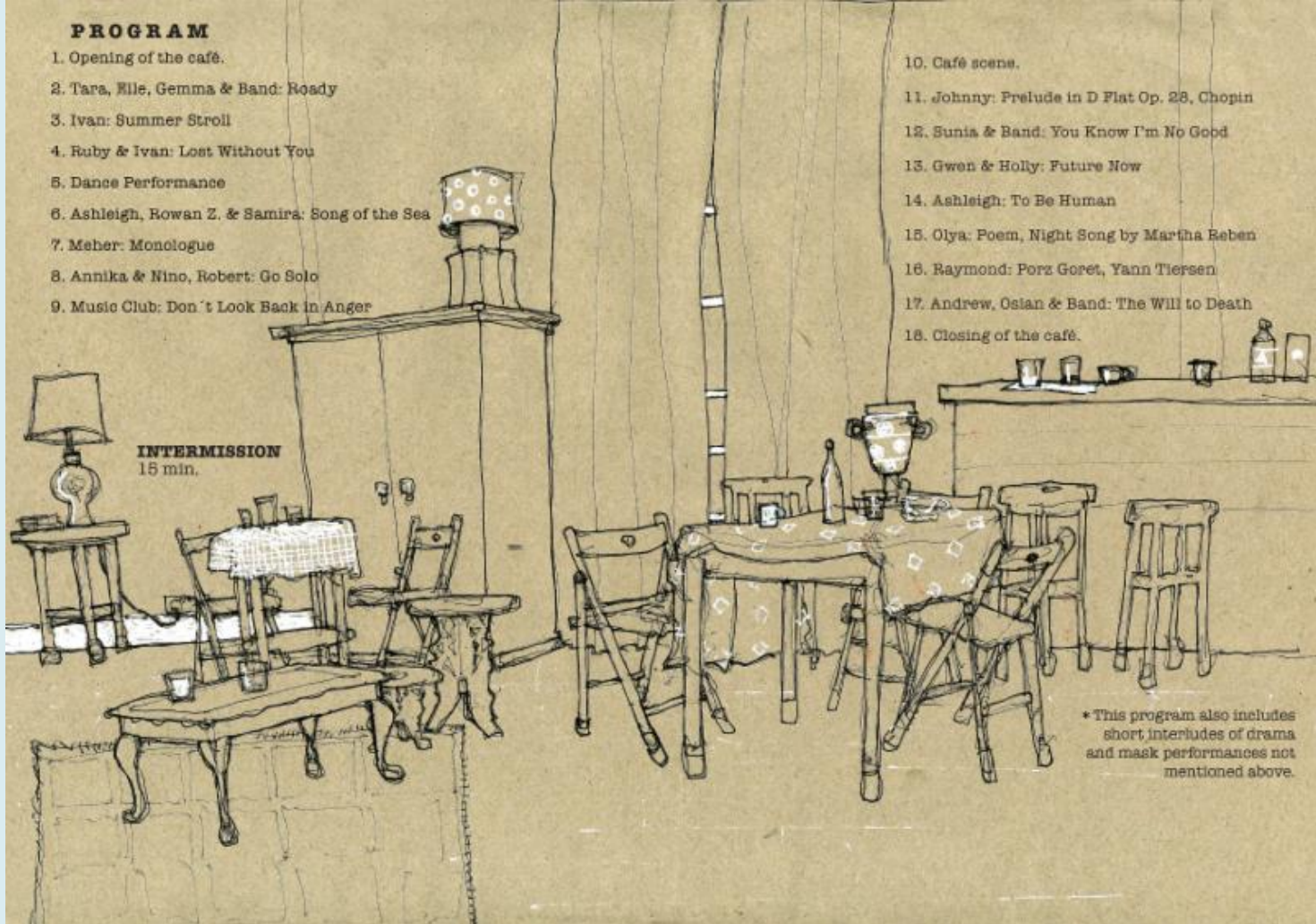
Student Abhi sketching in a nearby field on a sunny Tuesday morning. Part of the landscape exercise was to study the lines in the landscape and rather than focus on details, try to capture the gestures of the trees and the land through loose mark-making.



Jonathon and Ruby gather wood during Bush-Craft



Two mask performers engage with one another's character, one being chaotic and confused and the other enacting a calm and organised being. Both encounter a clash of behaviours.



The Winter Concert Programme



Parents share a tea and a chat during our annual Parents Weekend

Have a Wonderful Winter Break!

Visit our website at
brockwood.org.uk

STAY CONNECTED

