
Brockwood Park School

November & December Newsletter



So we must find out for ourselves what it means to end, not the ending of death - you understand? - that is one of the things, but what does it mean to end? The ending of my anxiety, ending, not what happens after I end, we will find out. Ending my desire, my longing, my frustrations, ending my hurts, ending the desire to fulfil, ending it. Right? You understand what I am... The ending of something, psychologically, and even physiologically. The ending of your attachment to another. The ending of your belief, the ending of - not belonging to any institution, the ending of it. What happens? You follow what I am saying? If we understand one thing then we can move to the ending which we call life, which is death. The ending of attachment, because most of us are attached to something or other. Right? To our bodies, to our looks, to our husband, to our girl, to our belief, to our gods, something or other - attachment. Now can you end attachment, not say, 'I will get something out of it', just cut it, surgically, rationally, seeing all the causes of attachment, what is implied, which we went into, I won't go into all that, and to end it completely? Have you ever done anything, ending something completely? Specially attachment, do it now as we are talking. Become aware of your attachment, end it, and see, observe. Then what takes place? You cannot observe very clearly if you don't end something. What happens? Right?

Say for instance, you are attached to nicotine, smoking. I am taking that very ordinary, rather stupid example. What happens, without fear, you end it because it is irrational, why waste money and all the rest of it. If you end it because it affects your heart, your lungs, then you are not ending it, you are ending it out of fear. But being aware of all the results and so on, the cause of smoking, you say drop it completely, today, now. Then what has taken place? Isn't there not only freedom from smoking, but isn't there a new sense of freedom, a new beginning? You are following this? If you end your attachment to the country, you know, attachment, to a piece of furniture, if you end it completely then there is a new beginning, isn't there? No? There is no new beginning if you do it out of fear, if you do it out of rationalised, careful analysis. But if you see the whole nature of attachment, what is involved in it, completely, and end it, then you will see there is totally a new beginning. Because the ending is the past, and when you are ending the past then there is not only a new observation but a sense of extraordinary freedom and movement not born of the past. I wonder if you get all this! Do it and you will discover this for yourself.

J. Krishnamurti Sixth Public Talk in Saanen 20 July 1978

Inquiry Time



November 6th: Agreements - alcohol, drugs, sex and tobacco

Two out of nine agreements are related to alcohol, drugs, sex and tobacco. All students have to sign them before joining the school, nevertheless, once here, the sense of freedom can make some students feel that it is fine to break them. The school split up into small groups to discuss the topic of the role of the agreements and what happens when students break them. It can happen that a double life begins to kick in and that lies can get normalised. This affects the trust among staff and students and it gives rise to authority. Staff can get caught into the police state mentality. Student can feel that they cannot openly talk about this as there are consequences. This situation requires sensitivity and a great deal of dialogue.

November 13th: Agreements - drugs

The whole school came together to discuss the use of drugs. There were some people in the room who never had a drug experience and others who had some experience. A great deal of practical information was shared and we looked into the state of mind that decides to use drugs. Boredom, peer pressure, curiosity, society influence, lack of meaning in our lives, not loving what we are doing, etc were among the reasons why people choose them. Brockwood provides an environment in which drugs are not attractive or necessary, which can help students realise that we do not need them to lead a meaningful life.

November 20th: Loneliness and being alone

We split up into small groups to discuss the topic of loneliness and being alone. Is there a difference between them? We can feel lonely even if we have friends, family, etc. It is a sense that we are not connected with anyone. Does the feeling of loneliness come from the fact that we are constantly thinking about ourselves? Nevertheless, sometimes we can be on our own and feel fine, particularly when we are doing something that we like or love. The word alone means 'all one', no division inside.

November 27th: Students only Inquiry Time

The students requested to have an Inquiry Time on their own as they wanted to discuss among themselves the topic of care and respect in the school. We were told that it was a good meeting.

December 4th: Attachment

A couple of students presented the topic of attachment to the whole school. It was chosen from the list of questions created by everyone at the beginning of the year. We had ten minutes of solo-time outside, it was a splendid day, and we split into smaller groups to discuss the topic.

What happens to us when we are attached? We can be attached to people, ideas and objects. Does attachment breed fear? Can we be free if we are attached? There is a difference between liking something and being attached to something. Learning to let go is a process which matures in us until we are ready to live without something that once was important to us.

December 14th: Parents

A group of students chose the topic of Trust to discuss with parents. The school was split up into small groups with parents joining those groups where their children were. Is trust unconditional? Is love the same as trust? We can love someone but we might not trust that person and vice-versa. To trust someone unconditionally is dangerous as we can get easily hurt, nevertheless, to give love is never dangerous.

November & December Events and Happenings

November 3rd:

School returns from half-term break.

November 4th - 10th:

Core Science: Poster, Scientists and Us: A poster session about famous scientists and their contributions.

Elective Science: Research session 2

Elective Humanities: The elective class started to look at the topic of 'cities' through a geography lens. We looked at how maps represent cities. Looking at historical maps of different cities and using London as a case study. We engaged with questions such as 'Where does a city end' 'How will we know'

Biology A2: Photosynthesis summary

Biology AS: Enzyme action and temperature: An investigation into the effect of temperature on the action of enzymes

EAL: We are learning prepositions of time, place and direction -- through worksheets, songs, pair work and outdoor walks.

Many other classes took place but were not documented in our record in time for this newsletter.

November 11th - 17th:

Core Science: Where is life? We explored the genius of Antoine Van Leeuwenhoek and his utterly radical question (for 1660s anyway) of where life can be found. Rather than examine where it obviously is, Antoine chose to look where it was not obviously present which led to a new universe emerging into life of microscopic organisms never seen before.

Elective Humanities: The class continued to look at maps and how significant changes in the cities are represented in maps. We took examples of 4 different cities- Cordoba, Spain; Berlin, Germany; Jerusalem, Israel; London, UK, to look at the reasons why these cities went through significant changes in the Maps over the ages, some due to religion, other due to invasion and war!

Biology A2: Into the world of Homeostasis: How does the body maintain it's delicate balance? We used reaction tests in response to 3 different senses; sight, hearing and touch, to investigate how to tell if differences between data sets are significant or not using the student t-test.

Biology AS: Immobilizing enzymes: We immobilized lactose in alginate balls and then ran milk through them to create lactose-free milk. This we tested with a semi-quantitative Benedict's Test which was...inconclusive.

EAL: We are learning how to make correct sentences, both positive and negative, and how to ask questions in Present Simple tense and also in Present Continuous. As we compare the use of the two tenses, we learn about the subtle intricacies of the English grammar.

English AS: Meher, Nino and Emma started on our new set poems today (Mon 11th). We are studying the poems of Gillian Clarke, a contemporary poet from Wales, who writes beautifully about nature and human relationships. We all brought a favourite poem of ours to class, also, to read to each other and discuss the effects of the poet's use of language and structure. We read Song in Space by Adrian Mitchell, Prometheus Goes to A&E by Isla Anderson and Warning by Jenny Joseph. These three (very different) poems gave us lots of scope to discuss form and imagery, meter and rhythm.

English Lang A2: Alasdair and Emma have just finished studying 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' (what a journey!) and now we start on 'The Winter's Tale', one of Shakespeare's last plays, and one which is tricky to categorise. It's a story of jealousy, rejection, atonement and redemption, as well as forgiveness and patience.

November 18th - 24th:

Core Science: It is not uncommon to use science in everyday life without fully understand it.

Compasses were used as navigation tool since the late 1300, without knowing how they worked.

During class, we brought memories of William Gilbert, who after 17 years of experimentation concluded that our planet behaves as a huge magnet. We observed the magnetic field lines of different magnet configurations, explained the northern lights and understood how compasses work.

Elective Humanities:



The elective class took a field trip to London for a historical walking tour of the city. We engaged with topics we looked at last term while looking the topic of 'Cities' through a historical lens. From walking through the old lanes of London where the 1666 Fire started to looking at the Plague pits. We then went to the Museum of London to carry on looking at the the significant historical changes the city has gone through, from the Roman Londinium to present day modern financial capital. We finished our day with a trip to the Covent Garden market to see the Christmas lights.



Mapping London Lesson 1: 1677 Map of London

Biology A2: Kidney Dissection with the eye, scalpel and the microscope - getting to know this most valuable of organs

Biology AS: Enzyme maths and the beginnings of membranes.

EAL: We are moving into the Past Simple and Past Continuous, making our way through piles of worksheets to practice those irregular verbs. The days are getting colder and we now take most movement breaks indoors -- this often brings good jokes and laughter into the class.

English A2: Alasdair, Meher and Emma are going to Wilton's Music Hall in London on 21st Nov to watch a production of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing', one of the A-Level set texts. Wilton's is one of the oldest venues in London (1859) John Wilton's vision was to provide West-End glamour, comfort and first-rate entertainment for East-End working people.

November 23rd: Brockwood Concert performed by the award-winning Linos Trio, with a programme including Beethoven and Mendelssohn.



November 25th - 30th

Brockwood's Global Issues class went on a tree planting trip to the Lake District last week, where our trustee Gary Primrose manages a conservation project and is re-planting a native forest. (photos in the gallery below)

In their own words: "We planted oak, birch, alder, hazel, bird cherry and hawthorne - 260 trees in total - and through that experience, investigated our relationship with and responsibility for the natural world. We also went on a hike over the fells!"

Report Writing deadlines arrive.

December 2nd: Student Finn shares his epic adventure building a 16ft boat and then sailing it from the Danube River to the Black Sea. Finn and his partner-in-adventure Tereza were on the water for almost three months over the summer.



You can find out more about their experiences at <https://totheblacksea.com>

Friday December 13th to Sunday December 15th .
Parents' Weekend (School in Session)

December 16th:
End of First Term - Departure Day

Sunday 26th Half Term begins.

Brockwood Concert Series

We invite you to join us for our 2019-20 Brockwood Concert Series. Brockwood Park has long been home to world-class music making, with visiting artists that have included Nicola Benedetti, Yaltah Menuhin, Leonid Gorokhov among many others. Set in the beautiful Hampshire countryside, our concerts are held in an intimate space with a spacious acoustic and a unique atmosphere of familial warmth and focused listening-a setting long cherished by artists and audience alike.

This years concert line-up, the first of which has already taken place, is as follows:

Linos Piano Trio



Concert I
Heroic and Comic Variations

Saturday 23 November 2019
Linos Piano Trio Programme
Ludwig van Beethoven:
Variations for Piano Trio "Kakadu" Op. 121a
Variations from Symphony III "Eroica" Op. 55 arr. Linos Piano Trio
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Felix Mendelssohn: Piano Trio in D minor Op. 49
The Award-winning Linos Piano Trio returned to play in the first concert this season with its pairing of Beethoven's last published work for the piano trio, and a new arrangement by the trio from the "Eroica" Symphony. The two variation sets, each with their own tight-knit fugue, embody two immediately recognisable of Beethoven's traits: the sense of the heroic epic, and at the same time the comic wit in the art of variations. The programme concluded with Mendelssohn's famous D minor trio, hailed by Schumann to be one of the greatest works of the genre.

Liam Byrne - Viola da Gamba c. 1680
Prach Boondiskulchok - Fortepiano c. 1795



Concert II
Anachronic and Virtuosoic Fantasies

Saturday 25 January 2020
19.15 - Pre-concert Talk
19.45 - Concert
Liam Byrne - Viola da Gamba c. 1680
Prach Boondiskulchok - Fortepiano c. 1795 Programme
Johann Sebastian Bach and Eugene Ysaÿe: Works for Solo Viol
John Cage: Bacchanale
Ludwig van Beethoven: Prometheus Variations Op. 35
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Boondiskulchok - Prometheus (2020)

Carl Friedrich Abel - Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Keyboard

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach - Sonata Viola da Gamba and Keyboard

Praised by The Times and The Guardian for his "stylish, expressive" and "glittering" performances, Liam Byrne is an unusually innovative musician of our time. Playing mostly either very old or very new music on the viola da gamba, an obsession with the instrument's most obscure 16th and 17th century repertoire is a recurring theme in his work. In this collaboration with Prach Boondiskulchok who is equally fascinated by the rare world of new music for old instruments, the two musicians co-curated a programme that travels back and forth in time. Featuring works that that push these instruments to their limits as well as pairings that frame old works in new light.

Castalian String Quartet



Concert III

Melancholic Idylls Saturday 16 May 2020

19.15 - Pre-concert Talk

19.45 - Concert Castalian String Quartet Programme

Ludwig van Beethoven: Op. 18 no 6

Thomas Adès: Arcadiana

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Johannes Brahms: Quartet in C minor Op. 51 no. 1

Rapidly emerging as an exciting voice on the international chamber music scene, the Castalian String Quartet is a winner of multitudes of prestigious international awards. Seen regularly on the international stages such as the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Paris Philharmonie, the quartet is one of the finest ensembles of its generation. Their first concert at the Brockwood Park Concert Series feature three great works for the quartet. Beethoven's last quartet of the early set paves way to the revolutionary romantic quartets to come, with the apex of the work entitled "The Menlancholy". Thomas Adès's prodigious early work Arcadiana of 1994 has now become a canon in the quartet repertoire for its evocative vignettes of water-related idylls, and nostalgic fantasies. Brahm's "tragic" String Quartet ends the programme with its expansive high-romantic power.

Tickets: Entrance Free, Suggested donation of £15. All donations received from our Brockwood Concert Series will be put to the Peter Norris Music Fund. This fund is used to support Brockwood students who are taking private music tuition and to maintain the schools instruments and other musical equipment.

**To make a reservation, please contact admin@brockwood.org.uk or tel. 01962 771744
For artistic and programming inquiries: artisticdirector@brockwoodconcertseries.com**

Brockwood Takes a Trip to Abbey Road



Staff and students recently took their music-making to London's iconic Abbey Road Studios. Following a songwriting workshop at Brockwood Park School, former student Saskia Griffiths-Moore invited a group of students to help record her latest song, released in partnership with London charity Music for Mental Wealth. You can spot some Brockwood faces in the video if you look closely.

School Gallery



Precision is key in the Woodwork Barn



Parents, students and staff at Brockwood enjoyed 'The Street', our Winter Show, which was a collaboration between Brockwood Theatre Company and the rest of the school. English teacher Chris writes: "It was an opportunity to stretch skills, showcase talent and test nerves in a varied evening of music, dance and song."



Staff member Chris performs during the Winter Show.



Natalia arrives at the Winter Shows special station



Brockwood's Global Issues class went on a tree planting trip to the Lake District, where our trustee Gary Primrose manages a conservation project and is re-planting a native forest.



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Good honest work in the great outdoors



A friendly football game seen from above at Brockwood



Student Abhi takes a close shave



Wood Work Teacher Andrew enjoys almost nothing as much as a freshly sharpened chisel



Staff Member Seth remains statuesque while having his portrait drawn by students in the Art-Barn



Visiting artist Nicola tutored the students carefully

The Darkling Thrush

By Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,

And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

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brockwood.org.uk

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