

Find out the Broken
Compasses' secret
to winning in an
exclusive interview
with the band...

Battle of the Bands



- World Book Day
- Gap years
- Staff spotlight
and more...



Ernie, Ted, Seth & Jack of the Broken Compasses - Image courtesy of Red Kite

*
*
*
*
*

£0.00 - DIGITAL COPY



Issue 03

WELCOME

Editor's note

As the spring takes us into our third issue this year, we have reflected upon the last half-term's events and successes, including the amazing Battle of the Bands which the Broken Compasses recently won in Leeds. We also hope you enjoy the newspaper's new design!



Contents

2-3	Welcome
4-5	Battle of the Bands
5	Joy in our community
6	World Book Day
6-7	Shakespeare festival
7	Staff Spotlight
8-9	All about gap years
10	Photography competition
11	What is Ramadan?
12	Politics/Debate club



Meet the team

Editor in Chief, Designer
Kitty Hutchinson

Designer, Reporter
Benjamin Law

Photographer, Reporter
Ellis Williams

Reporter
Blake Thornton

Reporter
Thomas Nutter

Subeditor, Reporter
Iris Hargreaves

Reporter
Daniel McGowan

Correspondent
Amelia Platt

Correspondent
Iqra Ul-Hassan

Managing Editor
Ms Bridge

Get involved

We are always looking for regular or casual reporters and correspondents to join our team. If you are interested in writing a one-off piece in our next issue or just want to get involved, please contact Ms Bridge at:

h.bridge@southcraven.org

We look forward to hearing from you!



Battle of the Bands victory



Kitty Hutchinson
Benjamin Law



After winning the school qualifiers, the Year 9 band **The Broken Compasses** attended the Red Kite Battle of the Bands in Leeds. The competition was held at The Wardrobe, a well-known music venue in the city center, with a capacity of 400. Eight bands were competing, all from Red Kite Alliance schools across the Leeds Area. The performances were judged by a panel of Launchpad Industry advisors: **Vijay Mistry** (drummer, Kaiser Chiefs), **James Flegg** (Music Festival Organiser, Chapel Allerton Music Festival) and **Satnam Galsian** (Music:Leeds / Launchpad).

Newspaper designers Ben and Kitty, who placed third in the competition last year, caught up with The Broken Compasses members Ernie, Ted, Seth & Jack to see how it went.



Firstly we wanted to congratulate you, well done on the achievement; you did what we couldn't! "Thank you!"

To start off, what song did you play? "We played our own song that we wrote called "No Place to Go." I [Ted] wrote it mostly, with the help of Mr Cannon, but we all added bits to it. We all did our own parts."

I imagine it was the first time you performed at a venue like that, what was the experience like? "It was really cool; the stage was really big and the sound check was awesome - when we got

to play it for the first time with that kind of volume and the huge amps, it was really special."

Was it busy? How many people were there? "When we played, it was almost full - I think there were about 400 people!"

Wow! Were the other bands any good? "Very good. There was one that played an Ozzy Osbourne song; they were probably more skilled, I'd say. Honestly, most of the other bands were more talented than us, but I think just playing our own song - and maybe being a bit younger than

everyone else - added to it." **Did anything go wrong?** "Yeah, the second time we played, we were all a bit surprised. I missed a verse and we stopped. It was a bit of a mess the second time around."

That happened to us as well! So, what are you going to do next? "I don't know - play as many other gigs as possible, I guess. We've got a few lined up, especially me [Ernie] and Ted, because we can fit into pubs and things. We'll try to get experience doing that. Then, wherever we can fit the rest of the band in - I'm sure there are a couple of

festivals around Sutton and Cononley. I know there's one there, so we'll try to get on that."

What did you win? " We won a slot at Chapel Allerton Festival, although I have no idea where that is! I think it's somewhere near Leeds. We also won a slot in the recording studio at Eiger Studios in May"

Will you return next year? "Yes, but not as competitors. Part of our prize is also a headline slot at the next competition, where we get to do a full set of our songs."

Great!



Thank you to the Broken Compasses for giving us a look into what it took to bring home the trophy for South Craven! We wish you the best of look in your future musical endeavours.

Spreading joy in our community

Amelia Platt

entered all types of businesses from hairdressers and nail techs to estate agents and offices. "I just wanted to email to say that when you and your fellow students brought in small gifts for us in the office at OMEGA, it immediately brightened our days. After a busy morning, that small gesture made us smile and helped lift our moods. Through the rest of the day, we kept looking at our gifts and smiling. It was a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a positive difference in someone's day. Thank you to you and the others for taking the time to spread this message around the village!" - Lizz Addy (Operations and Project Manager, Omega Solutions)

We then took the remaining gifts round school and handed them out to teachers and students. In the end, we handed out almost 120 gifts to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day. The Equality Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors wanted to spread kindness around CrossHills. The Ambassadors are helping to create the safest environment possible at South Craven. *If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email Mrs Crowther at c.crowther@southcraven.org*

Every year, on the 17th February, we celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day. This day aims to highlight the everyday, random acts of kindness that we give or receive. Random acts of kindness can be anything from helping clean at home to simply smiling at a stranger. These random acts don't need big, expensive gestures and positively impacts both the recipient and giver. According to the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, witnessing acts of kindness releases the hormone oxytocin. Oxytocin - informally called the love hormone - increases self-esteem and optimism. It also increases serotonin which improves happiness. So, random acts of kindness have been scientifically proven to improve our mental health and don't require large amounts of money or time. Random acts of kindness are experienced in the brain and can drastically improve a person's

mood. Experiencing kindness makes people more likely to 'pay it forward' and continue the chain of kindness. This is why spreading kindness is so important.

Unfortunately, official random acts of kindness day was during half term, but some of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors went out into the local community to spread some joy on the first Wednesday back. Three ambassadors - and Mrs Crowther - went round businesses in Cross Hills handing out pens, badges, wristbands and other small gifts with positive messages on. Mrs Crowther commented that "It was lovely to go out into the local community and spread a bit of cheer, the students were brilliant and a real representation of what South Craven learners are all about. We are hoping that one small act of kindness might cause a ripple effect both in and out of school."

In just 1 hour, we handed out 75 cards with positive messages on and over 75 gifts. We visited almost every business that was open.

Mabel (Year 10) one of the Ambassadors said "Everyone was so grateful and it was a really enjoyable experience for us and them. We visited all the businesses that were open and I hope that they appreciated it. In my opinion, random acts of kindness should be more known and more popular within communities"

George (Year 10), another Ambassador, said "I thoroughly enjoyed doing these random acts of kindness, as it gave me a purpose and a place in the local community. I loved brightening hard workers' days and seeing the smiles on their faces. It made me realise there is so much good in the local area." These small acts aimed to bring a smile to the faces of everyone working. We as ambassadors



World Book Day fun



We had a fabulous time celebrating the wonder that is World Book Day this year. Seeing staff transform into Oompa loompas; Cathy by her window and Gangsta Granny was a reminder of the joy literature brings to our lives. These incredible characters and stories that come alive between the pages of books will always excite our imagination and joy! Our KS3 lessons were given over to celebrating the books on this year's £1 list and encouraging our students to write their own stories - we had some incredible narratives! Finally, a huge thank you to our students who baked or crafted in our competition. Our winner made an incredible cake inspired by the Book of Monsters from Harry Potter, but there was fierce competition with some truly inventive designs. What a wonderful way to celebrate reading, so why not pick up a book and escape into the world of your imagination!

Ms Green



Shakespeare Schools Festival

March 17th marked our annual involvement in the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. This is the largest youth drama festival in the world and is a non-competitive celebration of Shakespeare's works and the power of drama. Students from Years 8-13 took on the challenge of *The Winter's Tale* - Shakespeare's 'fairytale' play and one perhaps most famous for the stage direction "Exit, pursued by a bear". Cara Novotny, a Leeds-based theatre-maker and dramaturg, wrote this fabulous appraisal for us.

Ms Bridge

“ I loved your opening prologue, establishing the passing of time as a company through the child-play inspired movement and music, seamlessly taking us into the opening scene and expertly introducing us to all the characters. Every single ensemble member kept the stage alive, and I really liked how you all had your own individual movements and interactions to keep the court scene active and engaged. The lyrical, contemporary dance with clock-like imagery was such a beautiful and creative solution to the theatrical

challenge of jumping ahead in time. The transition into the infamous 'exit pursued by a bear' with the rotation of placards choreographed to reveal the bear emerging from the leaves deserved a round of applause on its own. Your synchronisation was a testament to how well you worked together as a company, and helped deliver a dramatic and emotional transition from Sicilia to Bohemia. You created a beautiful and poignant conclusion using movement to demonstrate the character reconciliations, and brought Hermione back to life through the magic of the song

Seasons of Love. I liked how the company sang the song as an ensemble - you sounded wonderful and what a great way to reinforce the hopeful themes of love, time and forgiveness. Orla and Toby joined the technical team in this production, delivering a carefully cultivated composition of light and sound to transport us to the tensions of Sicilia and the idyllic Bohemia. I loved the way they used a flash of red light on specific words during Leontes' outburst, and how they played a string quartet version of 'Bad Guy' to take us back to Leontes in Sicilia. Marking these moments in this way really helped the audience with the emotional journey of the piece. The company were incredibly polite to everyone and supportive of the other schools on the performance day. They were true professionals throughout the technical rehearsal, and were able to move quickly and



efficiently. Their grasp of the language was excellent, they projected beautifully and their stage presence was captivating - they looked like they belonged on that stage.

This was a heartfelt and imaginative production of *The Winter's Tale* from a beautifully captivating and professional company. ”

Cara Novotny



Staff Spotlight Mr Hussain

Daniel McGowan

interviews Biology teacher Mr Hussain to find out more about his job and what he does outside of school.

What is the best thing about your job? "The best part of my job is seeing students enjoy science and finally understand something they've been struggling with. That "lightbulb moment" when it clicks is incredibly rewarding. I also enjoy building positive relationships with students and watching them grow in confidence over time. Another positive is working with a very smart, fun and obviously the best department in school who help support each other and are always on hand to give advice. Last I forget, I have the best form in the entire school - 8Y4!"

What is the most challenging thing about your job? "One of the most challenging aspects is balancing the many different parts of the role — teaching, planning, marking, and supporting students pastorally. Every student is different, and making sure everyone feels supported while maintaining high expectations can be demanding, but it's also what makes the job meaningful. I can't lie, as I have got older, trying to remem-

ber the names of every student is a little tricky and takes more time than it once used to!"

What is your greatest achievement outside of school? "Did the Wordle in 3 the other day! Joking aside, that's a very difficult question so I'll go for a few. Being the first person in my family to go to university and get a degree. Running was always something that I was never very good at school and even up until maybe 5 years ago before I started taking it seriously. Recently I have got my 10K time to under 45 minutes and have finished in the top 5 at a few Parkruns, which I am very proud of. However, there's always the next milestone, which for me is getting my 5K time to under 20 minutes and running a marathon, both of which I'd love to do this year!"

What do you do outside of school? "Outside of the classroom, having an active lifestyle is very important for myself and helps me physically, socially and mentally. The main sporting

activities I enjoy are running (you'll probably bump into me on the canal), football (Friday staff football is a sight to behold) and badminton. Watching sport either on the TV or in person is another passion with football and cricket being the favourite two. Music is also something I am a big fan of, if you ever wander pass C43 in the morning or after school there's likely something on Spotify playing (probably too loudly). Some of the best performances that I have been to include Oasis, The Vaccines, Muse, Bruce Springsteen to name a few. I also believe reading is really important and always have some sort of book on the go, currently Project Hail Mary."

Do you still do it now?

"Running - At least 3 times a week. Football - Friday staff football. Badminton - Not as often sadly, maybe a couple of times a month, usually with Mr Dyson"





All about gap years

Following on from our previous articles about progression after school, we interviewed various people who went down the gap year route, focusing on the travel aspect of their year. We also interviewed Max, briefly following his journey to beginning his exciting gap year.

Iris Hargreaves

Lily Bell

Travel

Can you fill us on on some of your travel experiences? "I started my travelling by working at a summer camp in the United States, in New Hampshire. I originally went for one summer, but I enjoyed the experience so much that I've now returned for three summers and will be going back again this year. After finishing camp in the summer of 2024, I travelled almost straight to Australia in the September, where I spent around a year living and travelling. During that time I also visited Bali and New Zealand. After summer 2025 in the United States, I did a road trip from LA through some of the major national parks before flying down to Guatemala and also visiting El Salvador and Colombia. My most recent trip was three weeks in Europe going through various different countries.

Why did you choose travel as opposed to more 'typical' post 16 options? "After finishing school, I didn't have a career or plan in mind and decided I wanted to experience more of the world. Working at a summer camp was a great way to start because it allowed me to travel while also earning money and meeting people from all over the world. Once I had built those friendships, it made travelling afterwards much easier and more excit-

ing because I had people to explore new places with. It also gave me the freedom to travel for a longer period of time and really experience different cultures."

Have you gained any unique skills or skills that you still use today? "The experience taught me a lot of practical and personal skills. Living and travelling abroad helped me become far more independent and confident in unfamiliar situations and life in general. Working at Camp America also helped develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills, as I was responsible for looking after younger campers and working closely with staff from many different countries. Planning trips, managing budgets and navigating new places are all skills I still use today, and the experience has helped me become more adaptable and open-minded."

What was your favourite part of the experience? "One of my favourite parts was the people I met along the way. The friends I made at Camp became my travel partners, and some of the best moments came from exploring new countries together - whether that was road-tripping through national parks on the West Coast of the US, travelling through the islands of Bali on mopeds or living by the

beach in Australia. Those shared experiences made the trips even more memorable and created friendships that I'm sure will last a long time. I also appreciate the freedom of getting to do what I wanted on my own terms and being a much more independent version of myself."

Would you recommend this experience to others? "I would definitely recommend it. Taking time to

travel after school can be an amazing opportunity to learn about the world, meet new people and gain confidence before moving on to the next stage of life. It might not be for everyone however I think it's definitely worth a try, experiences like working abroad or travelling can really broaden your perspective and create memories that stay with you for years.





Bethany Woollacott

Summer camps

Where did you go in your gap year and why did you choose this route? "Camp Canada is a summer project, so isn't a full gap year, but it gives very similar vibes and similar experiences. You could do it in the summer of Year 13, for example! Some camps also do work in winter so if you're lucky, you could work literally this summer and then stay in Canada to do other work there! I went to Camp Oconto, Canada. It is roughly between Toronto and Ontario, on the shores of Eagle Lake. I chose this as I wanted to work in a summer camp, and companies like Camp America and Camp Canada offer many different camps you can choose from. I wanted a camp that I could access via Toronto Pearson International Airport, but other than that, I was very open to anywhere. I was in Canada for a total of three months: two I spent work-

ing and one travelling."

What was your experience there, did you gain any skills you still use today?

"My experience was nothing less than incredible! I got to work with some many young amazing people and learn so much about the culture and life in Canada. The biggest skill I gained was confidence. I never had this kind of confidence before I went to Canada, and Canada really gave me the push I needed. The campers could sense if you weren't confident and would be uncontrollable, so I really had to develop that skill! Furthermore, travelling solo is so scary but once you're in it it's amazing, I would not be the person I am now if I never just went for it."

What was your favourite thing about your experience? "I loved working with my specific group of camp-

ers as you develop a bond with them and you really enjoy spending time with them. They are all so caring, excited and adventurous, and will take on everything you give to them. Outside of camp, I loved visiting some of Canada's monuments like Niagara Falls and the CN tower."

Would you recommend this experience and if so, who to? "I would wholeheartedly recommend this. It is best for people aged 18+, but some camps do hire 17 year olds; this would be more challenging as you would be close in age to the oldest campers."

I would recommend going either in your long summer after your A levels or in your first year at university in the summer. Many camps will pay for you to come back and work there again and again, even working there

at higher levels. The sooner you get in, the more likely you are to be able to go back.

Finally, I would say that it can be scary and daunting. I went in my second year of university when I was 20. I wanted to go in my first year, but I got too scared (I shouldn't have been, it's a lot easier to do than you think!) Instead I worked at a summer camp in the UK to gain experience. I am really grateful for that experience as I knew how to interact with young people better when I was in Canada, so I had one less thing to worry about. For a note if anyone is interested, I worked for High Adventure Outdoor Education Centres summer camp, which was based in Ormskirk, but they do run quite a few camps in the UK in summer, and their head office is based in Cowling, so it's very near school! for years."

Max Dalton

Charity

What are you going to do in your gap year? "I have partnered with Project Trust, which is a global organisation that sends young people to countries around the world to teach underprivileged children in schools. I have been selected to go abroad to either Japan or Thailand, depending on where I am allocated. I am set to go in September of this year to do a 12-month programme."

What was appealing about this route? "Most people either go straight to universi-

ty or take a gap year to work or travel for a short holiday. I really wanted to push myself and do something that not many people have the opportunity to experience. Doing this not only allows me to help support underprivileged young people, but also expands my mind to other cultures and helps me grow both personally and professionally."

What do you have to do to get there? "I need to raise £7,450 to make this opportunity possible. This is a huge goal for me and will

take a lot of hard work and dedication. I have already raised £1,000 through fundraising, and I am planning to organise more fundraising events to help me reach my target."

Do you have any personal goals to work on once you're there? "I will be meeting many different people from various backgrounds while I am there, which will help me to become a more open-minded and well-rounded individual. I am also looking forward to being completely

independent and self-sufficient. It will be a big learning curve living in a different country, but I am optimistic that it will better me and help me grow as a person."

You can donate to Max's fundraiser here:





Photography Competition

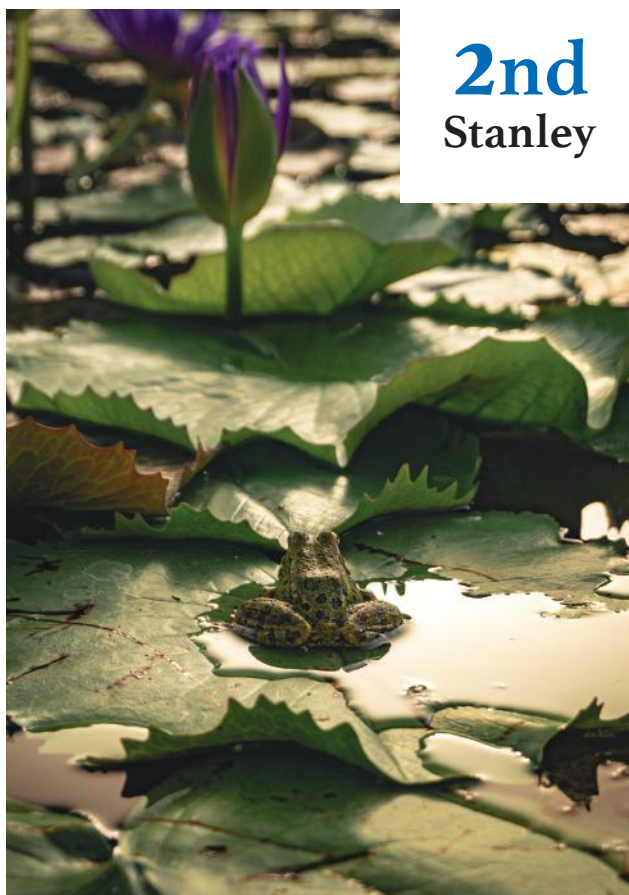
This issue's photography competition was Spring themed. We were very impressed with all the entries we received and had a very difficult time choosing a winner.

If you didn't make the podium then please don't be discouraged; keep an eye out for our next competition which will be announced soon!

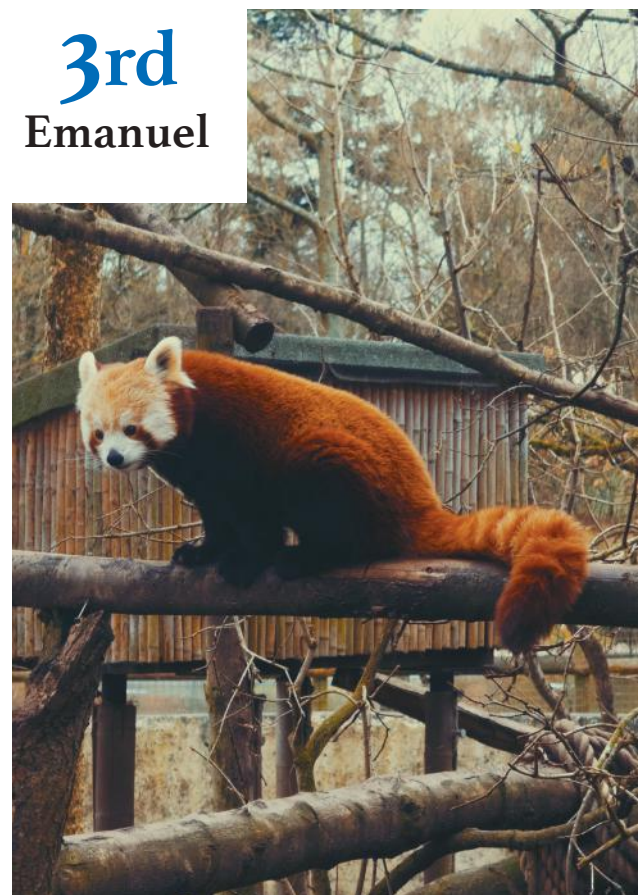
Winner Ben S

“I was quite simply stunned by the quality of this composition, its lighting and its unlikely, almost surreal capture means that this is a standout winner for me. It was a hard choice to pick however.”

Ellis Williams



2nd
Stanley



3rd
Emanuel



What is Ramadan?

Iqra Ul-Hassan

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the holiest month for Muslims, where Muslims are expected to fast from sunrise till sunset. During this time, Muslims go without food and drink all day, which may seem daunting to most, especially during the summer, however it has a whole range of benefits: physical, mental and spiritual.

Ramadan is the month in which the Quran (the Holy book of Islam) was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). As such, spirituality is the most important aspect of fasting. The core aim of Ramadan is to grow spiritually and become closer to Allah - by abstaining from food, you're able to focus on reading the Quran, praying and remembering Allah. Your mind is therefore a more meditative state because of your fast, allowing you to pray and reflect more.

Fasting also strengthens your control and self restraint, thereby allowing

yourself to place trust in Allah to provide you with any sustenance you need, spiritual or otherwise. This is made even more effective by abstaining from bad habits and sinful acts. It also helps us empathise with the needy, as the experience of hunger fosters empathy for those less fortunate, encouraging us to give to charity.

Ramadan is an opportunity to really put the needs of others above your own. It is always beneficial to donate to charity and do good deeds, but it is emphasised so much more during Ramadan. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) told us to feed iftar to fasting Muslims, even if a drink of water is all you could give - the rewards you receive from breaking someone's fast multiply your own.

So how do we fast?

The fast begins at dawn and ends at sunset. Usually, one wakes up at Suhoor to eat and nourish the body before the day's fast; Suhoor is the short period of time

before the morning prayer Fajr, which starts at sunrise. Once the sun has risen, the fast has begun. At this point, we cannot consume any food or drink until sunset. During the day there are five compulsory prayers - Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha. Maghrib prayer is the prayer that breaks the fast. It is at sunset, and at this time we break our fasts, traditionally with a date and/or water, though this isn't required. During Ramadan, a lot of people like to pray extra prayers, as prayers are likelier to get accepted during Ramadan. One important prayer is Taraweeh, which is prayed alongside the last prayer of the day, Isha.

How does fasting impact our everyday lives?

A lot of people have to take up an extra workload at home during Ramadan, which heavily impacts their experiences at school. As we are not eating or drinking all day, it has a drastic impact on our day to day attitude, especially when surrounded

by people who aren't fasting and are eating food around those who are fasting. If we aren't careful with the foods we eat, for example if we eat lots of carbs for Suhoor it can lead to a lot of dehydration during the day - we have all made the mistake of not drinking enough water between Iftari and Sehr, and pay the price for this later during the next day when we are parched with no way of satisfying our thirst!

Does every Muslim fast?

No, not every Muslim fasts, and all for very different reasons. Some people can't fast due to travel or medical reasons such as illness, pregnancy or while they have their period.

How do we celebrate the end of Ramadan?

Ramadan lasts 29-30 days, depending on the sight of the crescent moon. After the last fast is broken and the moon has been sighted, it is officially Eid. Eid is celebrated over 2-3 days. We usually celebrate Eid with all our family and friends, dressing up and just having fun!

Hopefully, this has given you a useful insight into Ramadan and Eid. There is so much information out there to help inform you, and it's also always better to ask people than to live in ignorance.





Politics & Debate club

Blake Thornton
Thomas Nutter

There are many lunchtime clubs at South Craven School which develop different skills that can be useful in different situations. Thomas and Blake persuaded Mr Pickles and Ms Hamilton to take time out of their busy schedules to chat about two in particular - Debate Club and Politics Club.

Politics club

Debate club

So, Mr Pickles, why did you decide to set up Debate Club? "I set up a debating club because, when I was at school, I had a really inspiring teacher who set up a debating club. I didn't go often, but even so I remember really enjoying it when I did."

How many students attend Debate Club? "At the moment about 15 students tend to turn up each week. A subject is chosen the previous week and then spoken about later."

How do you select a topic or focus? "The topics vary a lot. It is similar to the school politics club, however it is generally less focused on political issues and more on social topics."

How are the sessions structured? "In addition to learning more formal debat-

ing skills, there is a rant section where you explain why something really annoys you. It can be quite therapeutic!"

Are you planning on developing the club any further? "We are hoping to take part in a debate competition at Ermysteds. You select a Chair, a Proposer and an Opposer. The Chair introduces the topic and then the Proposer develops an argument. The Opposer then counters this argument."

Why would you recommend Debate Club? "You can develop the skills of advancing an argument and a counter argument - but mainly I'd say just come because it's fun."

Morning, Ms Hamilton. Could you first tell us how Politics Club came about?

"Three years ago, a Sixth Former, who wasn't even studying Politics but was studying History, asked to start the club and I continued it when he left."

Do any other staff members attend? "Sometimes teachers ask if they can come along because they see the emails being sent out, but I discourage that because I feel like if there's a number of teachers there it might affect the amount of students coming or, worse, it might cause students to be influenced by teacher's views or less willing to share their own."

How do you decide on the discussion topics? "I keep an eye on the news to come up with different topics and sometimes students email me with ideas for topics to discuss. I then send out the email at stupid o'clock in the morning on Thursdays to give time to think about what they might want to say."

What would you say the benefits of Politics Club

are? "It allows students to express their views and equally be able to challenge other views. It means that students hear a range of opinions on different topics. Even if people don't come they might have a look at the topic and then look at the news. I hope that it might spark an interest in topics that may affect them."

Would you say that Politics Club has evolved since its creation? "The topics originally were more light-hearted when they started out but have become more serious, although we do still manage to have a good laugh."

You say that some of the topics are more serious. Is this difficult to manage? "There are controversial topics like Gaza, gender issues, assisted dying but we do our best to deal with them in a way that is sensible. Issues around political parties can cause disagreements, and I encourage students to make their points respectfully and always try to see why someone may hold a different opinion even if they don't agree with it."

Thank you for reading our March issue